

I've Became Able to Do Anything with My Growth Cheat, but I Can't Seem to Get out of Being Jobless

Arc 6 - Hidden Village of Demons

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[Novel Updates](#)

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(114) Prologue

It seemed like the removal works of the landslide at the southern valley was delayed.

It's because monsters frequently appear at that location and non-combatants would have to run for shelter every time it happens.

Dispatching knights to protect them while they did the removal works was also considered but the cleanup for the recent disturbance had not been settled yet either.

The remaining method was to send a request for the Adventurers but most of the Adventurers from out of town had been hired as escorts for merchants escaping from the monsters and the small number of Adventurers remaining in town received requests to protect the town.

That was the extent of the commotion.

The town residents were probably uneasy from the departure of most of the combatants.

For that reason, Suzuki and his group decided to go defend the site.

Two days after the commotion, we visited the house of a certain tribal chief who stayed near Ferruit.

By nature, more than 90% of the citizens in Dakyat are nomadic so most of them stayed in tribes.

It was the lord's house of one of the tribes that have the most power among all the tribes so I was certain when I imagined a splendid place but it was a house that was easy to assemble and dismantle.

To be honest, it would have been slightly cramped if everyone entered.

There, Suzuki and his group gave away most of the credit for the commotion this time round.

They said that the one who protected this town this time round, in the end, was Alessio and not them.

And he mentioned that if the information of the knights losing to the monsters gets spread to the world, Dakyat's national power would be suspected and it would invite major disorder within the country.

Jofre, Elise and we also agreed.

Julio said that he would follow Jofre's decision while Milky had no interest in it from the start.

Sutchino said that he don't need fame and honor as long as he receives the reward and was frowned at by everyone around him but the lord replied that rewarding just gold alone is easy and passed him ten gold coins.

And when they heard about the issue with the southern valley, Suzuki and his group, Jofre, Elise and Julio stood up.

Sutchino was reluctant but apparently, that region had gold veins and they were all swept away by the landslide.

Sutchino immediately stood up when he heard that there might be gold mixed within the landslide sediment.

Sutchino was holding onto the mysterious bead that released the ritual on the Goddess statue and returned it to normal at the end.

The client who entrusted that to him was not inside Ferruit so he could not get any reward in the end.

He clamored about how it was a scam.

However, since he was deceived through a negotiation that did not pass through the Adventurers Guild, nobody would help him.

The golden wool could be sold at a high price as a valuable item but Carol told him that all the merchants who would purchase it at a high price had escaped from the country so it would only be bought in bulk at a cheap price now and hence he also could not exchange that into gold.

That's why he probably wants money now.

Incidentally, we politely refused that request.

I understood that if Suzuki and his group were going then there won't be any need for any more personnel.

It definitely wasn't because I don't want to work as I'm Jobless.

It's because there are plenty of things that can't be done if there are others around.

For example, I still had not fully examined the skill 「Hikkikomori」 and My World.

I planned to stay at the inn in Ferruit for awhile to slowly do so.

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Five days passed since the monsters came to attack Ferruit.

In the inn room that I already consider as my own home.

“O ... o ... o ...”

I heard a mysterious voice.

Is it a broken alarm clock?

“O ... Oha ... Oha ... O ...”

Isn't it seriously broken?

And so I woke up and looked to my side.

A black haired girl was performing a seiza on the bed.

Although the long bangs covered her eyes, I could clearly tell that she was embarrassed from her cheeks that were dyed red.

“Oha ... Ohayo ...”

She was wearing silk clothes.

It was a pair of clothes I bought for everyone since I had an excess of gold.

The clothes had a wide neckline so the slave collar was more visible than usual.

” ... Ohayogozaimasu.” (TL: Good morning)

” ... Ah, good morning, Malina ... as expected, wouldn't it have been better if you swapped with Carol or Haru?”

Malina shook her head vigorously when I asked.

Yesterday, Carol, Haru and I discussed who would sleep together in a room that night.

Carol and I slept in the same room the previous night so by order it should be Haru's turn to sleep with me.

However, I accompanied Haru for swordsmanship practice the whole day yesterday.

Although status would rise along with leveling up, it's said that the skill with a sword requires technique and experience.

That's why I agreed with Haru's opinion that we would get rusty if we don't occasionally fight against a human opponent.

Then, when we returned,

“Ichino-sama, you should be tired today so please sleep with Carol in the same room today. Since you would not be able to recover from your fatigue if Haru-san sleeps in the same room as master.”

and Carol said, indicating that she knew about what we do at night.

Frankly, that was the truth so I really couldn't decline.

That's when,

“No, today I will go into eternal sleep with Ichino.”

Marina said that. I don't wish to go into eternal sleep.

“Of course, I would take off my mask. Since it's about time Malina establish a tolerance towards the male gender. But don't make a move on her okay?”

Marina suggested.

It was the first time she mentioned that so in the end, Haru and Carol had no choice but to comply.

However, when the mask was taken off, Malina was nervous as always.

When I woke up in the middle of the night due to a strange voice and listened carefully, “7291 sheep, 7292 sheep, 7293 sheep.”

I was shocked to hear her voice counting sheep.

If she counted 1 sheep a second, she would have already counted for two and a half hours.

Counting sheep originated because ‘sheep’ and ‘sleep’ sounds similar and would make one sleepy but for people like us who are unfamiliar with English, I don’t think we would feel sleepy even if we count sheep but I thought that she would become even more unnecessarily nervous if I spoke to her then so I quietly laid still.

I could no longer hear the sheep counts after a while but I don’t know if it was because Malina had fallen asleep or because I had fallen asleep.

However, when I looked at her face, the expression of nervousness seemed to overwhelm the expression of drowsiness.

” ... Are you going to put on your mask?”

“Ah ... I will stay like this ... until I have my breakfast.”

“I see ...”

“... Yes.”

After that, silence dominated the room.

I was thinking about stupid things like since I could hear the sounds of somebody moving about outside, 「Silent Room」 wasn’t on when Malina spoke.

“Er ... I would like to change but ...”

“So, sorry!”

I said as I turned around and,

“I’ll leave now.”

“Ah, no ... as long as your back is turned ...”

“O ... okay.”

What’s with this nervousness.

I could hear the rustling of clothes.

What is she taking off now?

No, what am I talking about?

What should I do ... that's right, 「Hawk's Eye」 ... if I use that, I would be able to see behind without Malina noticing ... wait what the heck am I thinking about?

Peeping is the worst.

In the first place, I already have Haru and Carol who love me.

If I did something like that here, I would lose their trust.

However, I wonder.

Even though she usually says those chuunibyou-like phrases, after she takes off her mask, she becomes timid and slightly afraid of men but can be seen to have opened up slightly to me and it might somehow lead to a situation where she becomes infatuated with me.

Wait, I'm seriously an idiot.

When did I start to aim for a harem?

To begin with, I'm only thinking about whether or not to peek now.

Wait, eh? Why am I talking as if there is room to consider peeking?

“Ichino-san, I've finished changing ... what's wrong?”

Malina asked worriedly as I had slammed my head into the wall.

I smiled bitterly at her as I said.

“Nothing ... I wonder ... yup. As expected, that attire matches Malina the best.”

“Th ... thank you ... very much.”

Seeing her look down and her face turn red, I wondered just how much of a shy person is she.

(115) A new inhabitant of My World

“Well then, master, we’ll quickly go shop and come back.”

“We won’t make Ichino-sama wait for long.”

“I ... I, protect, here.”

I decided to have Haru and Carol go shopping.

Actually, I wanted to go too but they said that it would be fine to just let the two of them do the shopping once in a while so I transferred to My World.

Of course, I was afraid to leave the room unoccupied when I open the door to the other world so I had Malina guard the room.

My World, the place that should be the rest area for us.

There was an unexpected guest there.

Or rather, she was staying there without permission.

” ... What are you doing?”

I called out to that girl who has a celebrated name.

“Torerul-sama.”

That’s right, it was Torerul-sama who visited my world.

“It’s up to me wherever I want to stay. Seriously, whose fault is it that made it this way ... Oops, Koshmar told me to not talk about it.”

Torerul-sama, the Goddess of Pleasure and Laziness, was lying on a king-sized bed that has been placed, without me noticing, in front of the observatory-like building that Libra-sama built.

Even though the skill is called Hikikomori, there’s no way I can be a recluse if Goddesses can visit just like this.

Won’t this place eventually become like a resort where Goddesses would gather?

If that happens, it will be nothing but misfortune for me.

“Now that I look closely, Torerul-sama, today you’re not sporting a twin-tail hairstyle but a swept back hairstyle. It really suits you.”

Torerul-sama’s hairstyle was usually a twin-tail hairstyle even in her Goddess statues but now she sported a swept back hairstyle using a glass hairband. Her forehead was totally visible.

Her long hair aesthetically reached the center of her back and it split to the left and the right there.

I kept quiet about how the child-like twin-tail hairstyle matched her better though.

“It’s definitely not because I’m afraid to have overlapping hairstyles with that girl that I changed ... there’s no meaning even if I say that to you ... ha ... sorry but I’m a little tired. In addition to having to face that troublesome Japanese, the discussion with the other Goddesses continued for several days, I’m tired. I’ll say it first, half of it is your fault. Seriously, it would have been great if you quickly changed your jobs, it only turned out this way because you stayed Jobless for so long.”

“U ... sorry.”

I originally wanted to say that the main cause was Torerul-sama who gave me the 1/20 experience required blessing without listening to what I have to say until the end but of course, I also kept quiet about that.

“You’ve been having an internal monolog as much as you like since just now but I too can read internal thoughts like Koshmar.”

“Eh ... sorry.”

“Well, it doesn’t matter. Nevertheless, your world seriously has nothing at all. At least prepare a casino.”

No, that’s unreasonable.

A casino would have to have famous features like the roulette and slot machine like the ones in Belasra but I would have a hard time making them.

“I would love to make a casino if Torerul-sama who I owe a great favor to

wishes for it but after all, only myself and four of my companions can enter this world so we haven't even created a home for ourselves."

"If the Lakont Church devotees heard that you prioritized your own home over the wish of a Goddess, they would deem you a heretic and perform an inquisition."

Torerul-sama was probably joking.

"Then won't it be fine if you create something like a doll that listens to commands?"

"A doll that listens to commands?"

"Umu, those homunculus that humans speak of."

... Homunculus huh.

Of course, I have not actually seen them before.

However, in my world, homunculus are lifeforms created by Alchemists.

It's an existence born with omniscience made by adding human semen and blood into a flask.

It's called The Dwarf in the Flask, is much smaller than humans and can only exist within the flask.

(TL: This whole paragraph was a reference to Full Metal Alchemist.)

"If you can create a world like this, you can naturally create something like a homunculus right?"

I can't create that!

I memorized various skills but the creation of life is the realm of Gods.

"It's not the creation of life. It's the creation of a doll that can listen to simple commands. It's equivalent to the artificial intelligence robot in your world."

"Either way, I can't create such a thing."

"I see. Then, I'll give you my homunculus."

Having said that, Torerul-sama passed me a stainless steel test tube stand and test tube(s?).

There was a small egg-like item inside the test tube.

“This is a homunculus?”

“Umu, when you open the lid and pour it on the ground, it will arbitrarily take the form of a grown person. Also ... that right. You should read the information manual that Koshmar pushed onto me previously. Since I never read it even once.”

Torerul said that,

“Umu, because I have received payment.”

And laughed before flipping her bed sheet.

I saw a large number of tomato inside that bed sheet.

Torerul sank her teeth into a tomato,

“It’s tasty. Fruits made by others and obtained without labor is delicious.”

And cheerfully laughed before disappearing.

I hugged the test tube stand and ran to the field.

There, I saw a tomato field where all the tomato fruits were completely stripped away.

There were countless small footprints on the field.

They didn’t belong to Torerul-sama. It was even smaller than hers.

It was probably the footprints of a homunculus.

... Well, I still have tomatoes in my item bag so it would be restored if I plant those.

If the price of a homunculus was a lot of tomatoes then it was cheap.

Thinking that, I took out a test tube and turned it over.

A white egg dropped down together with the liquid.

It slowly expanded and transformed into a human shape.

Wait?

Even though the footprints on the tomato field looked like it belonged to a

kindergarten child, instead of a primary school child, the child in front of me looked more like a middle school kid, or rather ... a high school girl?

And she was literally born.

Her breasts were smaller than Haru, larger than Carol ... about Malina's size?

And then, my line of sight went further downward.

"Er ... er ... er."

"Good morning, master."

Without any expression, the blond-haired girl with a bob cut turned her golden pupils to me and spoke to me in a voice without any intonation.

No matter how I look at her, she looked just like a living girl ...

"Master, who's that!?"

"Ichino-sama ... another new girl!?"

Haru's tail stood upright while Carol dropped the cloth bag in surprise.

"Wrong, no! That's not the caseeeee!"

My voice echoed through My World.

Even I who created the world don't know where the voice traveled to.

(116) Homunculus' name

I somehow managed to explain to Haru and Carol and convinced them.

Incidentally, the recently born homunculus was wearing my brand new reserve cotton clothes so she had quite a boyish appearance at the moment.

“So Torerul-sama was here just moments ago ... what a shame, I really wanted to meet her.”

Carol said and gave a disappointed expression.

Even though I've caused her to have various misunderstandings regarding Torerul-sama, she still believes in her until now.

However, that Goddess-sama probably chose to escape from such a troublesome situation?

“As such, from today onward this homunculus will be working here for us. I was also surprised when it grew a lot bigger than I had anticipated.”

Homunculus meant ‘Dwarf within a flask’ so I had mistakenly thought that it would be a dwarf.

“Would master have preferred if I was smaller?”

” ... Ah, well, I just imagined it on my own accord. It's not the matter of which is better —”

“I have supplemented master's information. Master prefers small girls.”

“Wait, that's wrong!”

Please don't treat me like a lolicon.

“That information is not wrong! Ichino-sama prefers small girls.”

“Master, small girls refer to age right? Is it alright if I interpret it as younger females?”

Carol told the homunculus while Haru came to verify.

... I don't know why but they have apparently recognized that I like small girls as a fact.

Even though my strike zone is actually not that narrow.

However, I've only encountered cute girls like Haru, Carol and Malina so the average appearance of the girls around me have certainly drastically risen. When I was in Japan, there weren't any girls cuter than Miri around me but looking purely at appearances, my companions all have a comparable appearance to Miri and furthermore, they all have good personalities.

Seriously, if I did not encounter Koshmar-sama or Margaret-san, my sense of beauty would have collapsed. Thank you thank you. Well, Margaret-san is a guy though.

I think I might perhaps possess power comparable to the Protagonist blessing Suzuki has in terms of encounters with girls.

"At. Any. Rate. I did not mean it that way and I created her purely because I thought we needed labor. To be honest, things turning out this way was also outside of my expectations."

"Master, in other words, you created me but you do not acknowledge me?"

The homunculus turned her vacant golden pupils towards me and tilted her head.

Her saying that made it seem as if I was a horrible father who does not acknowledge his own children.

By any chance did this homunculus intentionally say that?

"I'm not saying that. From now on, I wish to be on friendly terms with ... erm, what should I call you?"

"That should be decided by master."

... It arrived, the greatest challenge.

I was wondering if it would come.

Shit.

Naming is my worst trait.

Since she's a homunculus so Homu? No, that would be too simplistic.

And Cruz would be a guy's name.

Something even more innovative than that ... that's right, I exchanged tomatoes for her so what about naming her Tomato?

... No no, Fuyun was a horse so I could irresponsibly choose a name but even though the homunculus is a transient soul, she's still a girl.

I can't just carelessly name her.

" ... Ah, I'll definitely struggle when I become a parent ... Haru, could you please think of a name in my stead?"

"I'll obey if it is master's order."

" ... Ah, Haru if you say that it means you don't want to right?"

I can't really say that we've been together for a long time but even so, I still believe that I understand Haru.

I won't be as mean as to order Haru to do so.

Haru nodded to my question.

"Naming a person is a task that requires responsibility. It is something that would affect a person's whole life. It can't be done with half-hearted resolution."

"That's right. Yup, that's why I'm wondering if it would be alright for me to decide."

"If Ichino-sama can't decide then who can?"

Said Carol.

"Our master is Ichino-sama. It is the same for this person too. Then, Ichino-sama should be the person who decides her name."

I see, I guess that's true.

I was running away.

I was trying to escape from naming her, escape from my responsibility.

I'll have to thank Haru and Carol for making me realize that.

All right, I'll think about it seriously.

In the end, I thought for almost 20 minutes.

"Since she's a homunculus so Homu?"

In the end, I went with the name I decided using my intuition.

Intuition is important too.

"Master, I request for an immediate change to my designation."

"Master, that name is a bit ..."

"Ichino-sama, please think about it a little more."

... I'd like them to understand that this was the result of thinking.

In the end, after a discussion with the four of them including Homu (temp) for three hours, "Once again, Pionia. Nice to meet you."

I decided to name the girl Pionia.

It was taken from the word 'Pioneer'.

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At the same time.

(... Everyone is ... taking so long.)

Malina was sitting on top of the bed alone, faithfully following the order to waiting in the room.

Even though she was supposed to be replaced after an hour, three hours had already passed.

(I want ... to go to the toilet.)

It was thirty minutes after that before Carol realized and returned.

In the end, she endured without leaking anything.

(117) Pioneering and explanation on My World

“Nice to meet you, Pionia. I am Saku Malina. Please call me Malina. My job is Street Performer but while I am still quite inexperienced and I still inconvenience everyone, I look forward to working with you.”

“Nice to meet you, Master Malina. I will be in your care.”

... Eh?

There's a fake Malina here.

There's no way the real Malina would be able to introduce herself so fluently like that.

... In that case, did Marina finally take over Malina's personality and appear on the surface?

“Malina-san, has your shyness towards people been cured?”

Haru was strangely also wondering about the same thing as me.

” ... Ha, Haru-san, that's not true. Erm ... I.”

Malina suddenly became incoherent and she took out her mask and put it on, turning into Marina.

“Umu, when Malina was a child, she spent a lot of her time talking with humanoid constructs that have no souls. It seems like it was easier for her to talk knowing that Pionia is a doll.”

She spoke about her sad past while looking embarrassed.

... I see, it's true that Pionia is pretty much a doll.

“Pionia, are you alright being treated as a doll?”

“Affirmative. Homunculus are a kind of dolls.”

Pionia stated the facts without showing any indication that she mind it.

“It’s fine since the person herself said so right? Also, Pionia, could you call me Marina when I have the mask on?”

“I wish to present a question. I have no data of the phenomenon whereby the name of a hume changes after putting on a mask. Are Malina and Marina not the same person?”

“It’s a long story if I talk about it but Marina and Malina are both soul names. In this body called Saku Malina, two different souls coexist, I, Marina, am an existence that manifests when I acquire energy from the mana in the air when the mask is worn. Currently, Malina is in deep slumber.”

Marina talked about her own setting with a smug look.

However, it seems like she kept quiet about how her multiple personalities were born due to her extreme shyness and self-suggestion.

“Information supplemented. In the future, I will call Master Malina Master Marina after she has placed on the mask.”

When Pionia said that, Marina somehow trembled.

” ... Pionia, what did you call me?”

She asked once again.

“I called you Master Marina.”

“One more time please.”

“I called you Master Marina.”

“... One more time.”

“Tei!”

I reflexively chopped Marina’s head.

Just how much does she like the sound of her being called Master Marina.

“What are you doing Ichino.”

“Shut up, if I left you two alone, you would have continued in an eternal loop ... Leaving that aside, Pionia, what are you capable of? Do you have any special powers?”

“If I have Master’s orders, it is possible for me to pioneer this land using the same Book of Heaven and Earth Creation as Master. Also, I am equipped with various help functions related to this world. Please ask me anything if you have any questions.”

She knows about this world?

Then, I have a mountain of questions to ask.

“There is a connecting door between this world and Otherworld right? Something like a space distortion. Is it possible to erase it from our side?”

“Affirmative. Similar to how you can make it disappear on the Otherworld side, you can make it disappear on this side.”

“Then, is it possible to open the door once again?”

“Affirmative. Similar to how you can open it on the Otherworld side, you can open it on this side.”

“By the way, can I freely set the location to open the door at?”

“Negative. Except for exceptions, the door will open at the last location the door was opened from the Otherworld side.”

“What happens when there is somebody on the location where it was opened?”

“That corresponds to the aforementioned exception. If there is anybody at that location, the door will open in a shifted position.”

In other words, a person at the location won’t be blown away if I suddenly open the door.

It’s plenty enough to know it.

Currently, we have the space distortion kept open but in the future, I will be erasing it.

Once I do that, the risk of having someone else see it will be significantly reduced.

Also, regarding opening the door at the place where it was closed, I asked if there was a possibility of us getting released into space due to the rotation of

the star and the revolution around the sun but it's apparently not a problem.

I was told a difficult explanation that had something to do with the energy provided by the earth vein that fixes the location of the space distortion.

Nevertheless, almost all of the questions were settled.

"Haru, please call Carol."

"Understood."

Haru nodded and went outside to the Otherworld.

In the meantime, I decided to ask something.

"Will it consume MP when Pionia use the Book of Heaven and Earth Creation?"

"Affirmative. MP is the energy for this world."

"What is Pionia's maximum MP?"

"Infinite."

"Eh?"

"There is no upper limit to my MP."

That's a lie right, won't it be a world-landscaping free-for-all?

Isn't that even more of a cheat than me?

"In other words, you can freely remodel this world?"

Marina said with a chuckle.

"Negative. My MP is infinite but my current MP is only 32. I have no MP self-regeneration capabilities and I will consume 1 MP a day even without doing anything."

"Eh? That means Pionia can only move for 32 days?"

"That is conditionally affirmative. I can absorb MP from others to increase my MP."

I rubbed my chest in relief.

It happens frequently in stories where the lifespan of an artificially created life

is short so I was worried.

“Supply from others? How is it done specifically?”

“Umu, then I will lend a hand. Pionia, call my name and let’s try it. If you are capable of accepting my mighty magical power.”

“Understood, Master Marina.”

Pionia said as she approached Marina and placed both her hands on her cheeks.

Then —

” tsu!”

I could tell even with the mask on.

Marina’s eyes were wide open and she was flustered.

That’s because their lips were overlapping.

Furthermore, it’s long, long, just how long will the lips overlap?

Just as I had that thought, Marina collapsed.

“Like this, I replenish MP through mucosal uptake.”

... Replenishing MP through kisses?

“Ton ... tongue ... our tongues were entwined ...”

Marina sounded like she was having a nightmare even while she was unconscious.

Unbelievable, would I be able to do it too?

“Taking efficiency into consideration, using the mouth is best but there are other methods.”

” ... I see, there are other methods too. That’s great.”

“Yes. Using the hole.”

... hole?

Hole, what hole? Pionia-san.

A hole apart from the mouth?

Nostril? Ear hole? The eye should be impossible.

“Master Ichinojo. Let’s try it in practice.”

Pionia said as she grabbed my hand.

Wait, please wait.

This location is dangerous after all.

I don’t know when Marina would wake up and Haru and Carol would return soon.

” ... Well then, Master Ichinojo, please take off your clothes.”

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“Master, what are you doing.”

“Ichino-sama, what kind of ritual is that?”

“I don’t know either but this is apparently the best.”

... I was currently sitting with my upper body bare.

Pionia was rubbing my back with her palms like a massage.

“Apparently among the sweat glands, there are the most sweat glands on the back.”

“Currently I have replenished about 100 MP. I shall stop here today.”

Yup, a fair bit of my fatigue and my physical body was loosened up.

If I do this before sleeping, I might fall asleep immediately.

(118) Adventurers Guild's Cat Sith

For the time being, I asked Pionia to harvest the wheat and construct our home.

I passed her the required materials, tree seedlings and cotton seeds (the items I requested Haru and Carol to buy).

Incidentally, I kept the other Homunculus inside the test tubes. According to Pionia, they do not establish an ego while inside the test tube so there's no feeling like they are trapped.

If you ask me why I don't want to increase the number of homunculus, it's because I felt that it would be tiring trying to name them.

Marina could not move due to MP depletion so I had her rest in My World.

Why not let her rest on the bed in the inn?

There's a special reason for that.

Anyway, after returning to Ferruit, we left the inn and headed to the Adventurer's Guild.

The wandering adventurers have returned to the town but compared to before, there's still an overwhelming lack of adventurers.

Because of that, it seemed like there's a backlog of requests.

It looks like the sword and shield sign is universal and the Adventurer's card Haru had could be used.

Most of the requests were for escorts. It seemed like there's still a lingering fear of leaving the country despite having to replenish their stock.

In addition, there were also requests for the maintenance of the southern highway as well as monster extermination and the request for the removal of earth and sand was still there.

"Arresting bandits huh ... "

There was also information on bandits that only target food materials.

That kind of requests was called bounty requests and even without accepting the request, one could receive the bounty just by capturing and bringing them to the Adventurers Guild. Checking such information was required even for people who don't intend to receive the request because they can evade danger by acquiring information on the criminals.

However, regarding this bandit, there weren't any characteristic features written on the request apart from how the bandit only targets food.

It seems like many of those who traveled through the highway had their food stolen without them realizing.

I don't know if it was actually stolen or not.

It's a strange situation whereby there were no accounts of injuries and since it happens at a location that is two days walk from the town, there has also not been any cases of people starving to death from having their food stolen so it was a request that only grants the bounty for the live capture of the bandit. It was probably for the sake of investigating the method of stealing the food.

In the first place, since the opponent is a bandit, there probably wouldn't be a penalty even if the bandit is killed.

It's not that I actually plan to go on a bandit hunt but I'll take note of it.

"Please nya! Please help nya!"

I heard the voice of a young girl. However, that voice was not directed towards me.

Nevertheless, because of that characteristic talking manner, I couldn't help myself from looking over.

Until now, I've seen nothing but attractive beastwomen like Haru from the White Wolf race and Katyusha-san from the Brown Fox race but this time it's cat ears? And so I unintentionally shifted my gaze over to her.

I'm by no means cheating. Yup, I sincerely love Haru and Carol but this is the nature of men. It can't be helped.

Then, I looked at the owner of that voice and was at a loss for words.

Cat ears covered in fluffy black fur, cat whiskers that can be seen on the cheeks, a coiled cat's tail, cute paw pads on the palms and above all else, the face, no matter how I look at it — it's the face of a black cat. Nothing like a cat girl.

It was a cat walking on two legs wearing green clothes.

She was larger than a regular cat but about the size of a mid-sized dog?

Unlike a well-groomed house cat, the unkempt fur gave her an air of a stray cat.

"That's rare, for a Cat Sith to come to a place of human habitation."

Carol muttered.

"Cat Sith?"

Hmm, I think I've heard of that before?

Of course, I've also heard of it on Earth. It's a well-known character in games.

If I'm not mistaken, in a certain hilarious episode.

"Please nya! I need the strength of an Adventurer nya!"

"Like I said, you're noisy! I'd rather not help and get turned into one of those Cat-users."

A rugged Axe-user man said as he chased away the Cat Sith clinging onto his foot like she was a nuisance.

Ah, I remember now.

The Doujinshi seller, after his Silver Vine was snatched by a Cat Sith, his job was forcibly changed.

"There's no such thing nya! If you come now I'll treat you to an all-you-can-drink Silver Vine wine session nya!"

"Like I said I don't want such a thing! Right, those kids there look free. Go ask them."

The conversation suddenly turned towards us.

The Cat Sith looked at us and muttered with her eyes narrowed.

“They look weak nya.”

Yup, I’m definitely more of a dog person than a cat person.

Well, if it doesn’t concern us then it’s alright to ignore it.

She looks desperate but I rather not be involved in problematic issues.

Haru made a move just as I was thinking that.

She drew her two swords.

“Miss!”

Amidst the male guild receptionist’s voice, Haru’s sword was thrust towards the Cat Sith at the speed of light and moreover, it was done multiple times.

The Cat Sith couldn’t move from the immense fear.

Then —

Cat Sith fur scattered and fell to the ground.

Just the parts of the fur that were long.

After the refreshing haircut, the Cat Sith’s appearance changed from the unkempt stray cat to a well-groomed house cat.

The Cat Sith lost herself in shock and wordlessly touched her own fur.

And then, she suddenly cried out in a loud voice like a dam was opened.

“A ... amazing nya! What a swift and accurate Swordsman nya!”

The Cat Sith shouted excitedly.

“My master is even stronger.”

Saying that, Haru proudly — her face was expressionless but her tail was proudly spinning — looked at me.

When she said that, the Cat Sith made a big deal and approached us.

“Amazing nya! Please help me nya!”

She said.

I sense nothing but trouble.

Haru did that because she could not forgive the Cat Sith who made light of me but I'll have to caution her later.

Well then, how shall I refuse?

That's when the receptionist man approached,

"Just nice. If you receive her request, I will overlook the crime of her unsheathing her sword in the Adventurers Guild."

And said that. My escape route was completely blocked.

" ... Ha, first tell me the contents of the request."

In conclusion, I reaffirmed that it was a troublesome affair where even if I want to avoid it, we would be surrounded and won't be able to escape.

(119) Haru's role

As an apology for forcibly making us accept the request, he showed us many profitable harvesting requests that can be done near the Cat Sith village. Limited to this time only, there won't be a cancellation fee even if we canceled the requests so I gratefully accepted all of them.

"Thanks, I was really troubled. That girl has been doing that all day since the morning."

While processing the requests, the receptionist man said that with a smile.

"I wish to cooperate with her since there's the circumstance on hand but it is the Adventurer's freedom to accept a request or not after all. That's why I was troubled."

"I'm troubled too ... even though I wanted to spend my time peacefully. Well, I was free so it doesn't matter."

If I strongly rejected it, Haru would feel guilty.

I'll make sure to caution her later but I don't intend to blame her.

"Ah, please sign here."

Among us, only Haru belonged to the Adventurers Guild so she signed the documents.

"Sorry for making it like I'm forcing the request on you."

"If you feel guilty then can I just refuse the request?"

"Sorry but please don't do that. I'm a cat lover after all."

The receptionist man looked at the Cat Sith shaking hands with Carol with a warm loving gaze like the ones owners give their pets. ... Just because he likes cats, he settled it in a way that was good for the Cat Sith, that's clearly an abuse of authority.

Indeed, that race may look cute to cat lovers. They're cutely sized too.

However, I'm a dog lover so I won't be fooled by that cuteness.

Moreover, after listening to the circumstance, I realized that the receptionist man made a big mistake.

"... I see. But once we accept this request, that Cat Sith will no longer have a reason to come here."

The man stiffened when I said that with a grin.

"Sorry, forcing a request is something that should not be done in an Adventurer's Guild after all. I'll cancel the request —"

"No no, I don't mind. For the act of drawing swords and attacking, even if the opponent doesn't suffer any wounds, in the worst case scenario, it might even lead to expulsion. Moreover, the request is just for the collection of unique Silver Vine in the forest so I don't mind."

"I see ... erm, please tell her that she is welcome to come to this Adventurers Guild anytime in the future."

The receptionist man said in a slightly depressed tone so I felt slightly satisfied.

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"And so, I look forward to working with you, Stella."

"Me too nya."

I said as I bent down to shake hands with the Cat Sith Stella."

Touching the squishy squishy paw pads felt great.

"Please don't press my paw pads that much nya."

"Oops, sorry."

"I don't mind nya. Leaving that aside, is it through that you possess a carriage?"

"Yeah. Is the village the Cat Siths live in reachable by carriage?"

I heard that it was a hidden village so I would be troubled if it was only reachable through an animal trail and not a carriage.

“Of course nya. Since there are also individuals who use carriages among the Cat Sith nya. That’s great nya. It would take forever if I relied on my feet but we would reach latest by the day after tomorrow with a carriage nya. Since the Cat Sith race isn’t really cut out for walking.”

Cat Siths walk slowly. It’s probably because they only use two legs. She certainly doesn’t look that fast.

They would escape on all fours when in danger but they normally walk on two feet. It was apparently something to do with their Cat Sith pride.

“It’s Fuyun’s time to shine after such a long time.”

When we went to the stables, Fuyun looked at us and neighed. He was probably excited. Since we have not seen him for some time.

When we first came to this town, there were plenty other horses but now the numbers had dropped to less than half so he looked lonely.

“Well, once the Horse Chasing Festival begins the stables would likely fill up once again.”

The Horse Chasing Festival was originally meant to be held now but it was postponed due to the disturbance from the monster outbreak this year.

Nevertheless, a portion of the cows have already been slaughtered and as such, the marketplace was bustling with people.

It was a great experience buying viscera meat for the first time in this world.

It was also perfect that they won’t turn bad once stored inside the item bag.

“By the way, Carol. Is it alright to only purchase one barrel of Silver Vine given that we are going to the Cat Sith village? I thought it would be better to purchase more.”

I loaded the Silver Vine barrel onto the carriage.

Normally it would be fine to store it inside my item bag but Silver Vine is apparently a taxable item.

Smuggling would be a crime and more importantly, paying the tariff might level up my Commoner level.

“It’s because Silver Vine is taxable. Also, the Cat Sith village doesn’t have the concept of currency. A portion of the merchants only has currency enough for the use of trade when they go to other towns while residents in the village do so via bartering. Bringing too much would lead to a loss.”

“Really?”

“That’s not true nya.”

Stella flatly denied when I asked.

What’s going on? Perhaps Carol’s information is outdated and they have in fact already introduced a currency system?

“Everyone’s happy when everyone drinks Silver Vine wine together and make merry nya.”

In other words, what Carol said was true.

Yup, a single barrel of Silver Vine is plenty.

I’ll be troubled if I chose wrongly and increased the number, leading to the circumstance a certain Cat-User faced, having his carriage attacked by Cat Siths.

Carol, Stella and I sat in the carriage, Haru sat at the driver seat and after the uncle from the stables led us to the main street, we set off to the gate.

The gate was a lot less crowded than usual so we cleared through the gates in no time.

During that time, I paid a 2500 tariff for the Silver Vine.

Since I set Commoner as my second job, it rose to Lv75.

“Why is the tariff on Silver Vine so expensive?”

Though I’m not really worried about finances and I could spend it for Commoner experience points so I didn’t really mind.

Now that I think about it, pepper and salt weren’t taxable but why is that there’s a tax for Silver Vine?

Moreover, usually tariffs are paid when leaving a country so why was it that we paid when we left a town?

I collectively asked Carol all those questions.

“It’s because Silver Vine Wine is a specialty product of Ferruit.”

“Silver Vine Wine is a specialty product?”

“Yes. Also, one must pay a liquor tax if they make wine in the country. However, the Cat Siths who make Silver Vine wine in their own village aren’t subjected to those taxes. While the Cat Sith village is within the territory of Ferruit, they are a race that is autonomous outside the king’s jurisdiction. Because of that, they can’t obtain the liquor tax that should have been received. So 120 years back, the Silver Vine harvested in the country was all gathered in Ferruit and a law was passed to charge a tariff on all Silver Vine exported out of Ferruit.”

” ... Ooo, I see.”

“It’s a troublesome thing nya.”

Stella closed her eyes and said while nodding twice.

We left Ferruit and proceeded southwest.

Along the way, we rarely encountered any monsters so time passed peacefully.

The earliest we could reach the Cat Sith village was by the next day morning so tonight it would be a camp-out in the meadows.

Haru and I left the carriage to gather tree branches.

I thought for a moment if it would be fine to leave Stella and Carol alone, “Hey, would there be fish for tonight nya?”

“Yes, Ichino-sama would be cooking.”

“If it’s cooking fish, you can leave it to me nya!”

Yup, it should be fine if it’s the two of them.

Using the Job Appraisal skill, I found that her job was **【Cook: Lv9】** so it should be fine.

Or rather, I was looking forward to the cooking of a professional.

“Haru, since we’re alone, I want to talk about something.”

I turned back and looked at her in the eyes and said.

“It’s about the incident at the Adventurers Guild.”

Hearing my words, Haru’s tail drooped low.

“I apologize, master.”

“Haru, I have something important to say to you. A request ... no, an order.”

“I will accept it. No matter the punishment.”

Haru said. She gave a look that said she won’t mind even if she loses her life.

“Haru was angry was my sake. Haru was also angry at that Pugilist ... ah, I forgot his name, but that person who made light of me at the Adventurers Guild in Florence. And it’s probably the same for me. For Haru and Carol, and maybe even Malina. I will probably be angry if anybody ridicules the three of you. I might do something unlike myself like when I had that duel with that Pugilist.”

” ... Those words are wasted on me.”

“But, that’s wrong. A party can’t be established if there isn’t somebody that can always deal with things calmly. However, Carol is inadequate for that role and Malina has her hands full with her own condition without her mask. That’s why I want Haru to take on that role.”

I stopped and said as I looked at Haru.

“I can only entrust it to Haru.”

When I said that, Haru returned my gaze and,

“I respectfully accept that role.”

She replied.

That’s great ... I guess.

It’s definitely better than having her lose control. She could understand my intention.

I wish to believe in that for now.

I faced forward once again and began to gather tree branches.

” ... Thank you very much, master.”

Hearing those words from behind my back, I nodded with a smile while still having my back facing Haru.

(120) Seven Gray Stars

Let me say something first. It was a grassland. There were trees here and there but since we were not within a forest, it won't be that easy to gather fallen branches.

I said that we were off to gather branches but it was just a means to have a talk with Haru and I didn't really have the intention of gathering branches.

I can't leave Carol and Stella alone for such an extended period of time so I had Haru return first and I transferred to My World with my Hikikomori skill.

It might be named Hikikomori but Goddesses had dropped by and I even got myself an assistant so despite it being a private space, it's quite far off to call it Hikikomori. While having such thoughts, what greeted me was a forest that spread far and wide.

And when I turned around, I saw a log house under construction.

I call it a log house but it was somehow being constructed with cream-colored timber.

"Amazing ..."

"Welcome back, master."

What's amazing was firstly the shocking sight of Pionia's right arm that was in a shape of a saw.

"Is that an attachment?"

"It's Metamorphosis."

Pionia said as her saw arm turned into the shape of a hammer then further transformed into the shape of a sword.

That's amazing, it seemed possible to fight as the vanguard with something like that.

"Can you only transform your hand?"

“No, that’s not true.”

She said as Pionia’s whole body transformed.

And her appearance ... was exactly like Haru.

“Just like this, I can freely alter any part. Unfortunately, I can’t transform the clothes that I wear.”

No way! She can even change her voice!?

Rather, I wonder how many people born in the Heisei period will get this joke. I also didn’t know about ‘Real-time’. (TL: It’s apparently a joke from a Japanese TV program called ‘Real-time’) Leaving that aside ... uwaa ... even her breast grew larger.

“However, it worsens my balance so this form is the most comfortable.”

Pionia said and returned to her original appearance. Well, this suits Pionia better. Yup.

“That’s right, Pionia, since you’re building a house, do you have scrap wood?”

“If you want scrap wood, they are placed at the back of the house together with the fruits.”

“Fruits? Not tomatoes?”

“Yes. Among tree seedlings I received from Master Haurvatat and Master Carol, only the pine and oak could be used as timber. I will use the oak wood as flooring. The remaining seedlings were for grape vines, apple and breadfruit trees so I harvested and stored them. I can make wine from the grapes if master wishes for it?”

“Let’s see, I want to have a certain amount but it isn’t an amount that can be consumed finish right? Then, please make wine from the remaining grapes.”

“Understood, master. Then, may I have some MP please? Since I have used a considerable amount of MP.”

“Ah, of course.”

I said as I took off my shirt and faced my back to Pionia.

Then, I felt my MP escape from me as I received Pionia’s massage.

“By the way, I didn’t really give you much MP yesterday but it’s amazing how you can grow this many trees. Now that I look at it closely, isn’t that a river flowing through it?”

“Regarding MP, I had Master Marina’s assistance.”

“Eh?”

I looked at the direction where Pionia was pointing at and saw a familiar triangle hat.

Ah, Marina has collapsed.

It probably got to her head when she called her Master Marina.

After she finished consuming my MP, I wore my top, walked over to Marina and placed my hand on her neck.

It looked like she was sleeping. Her breathing was stable and there was a pulse too. (TL: Lol he only checks **after** he finishes getting his massage) It was the typical symptoms of MP depletion.

“Pionia, next time, even if Marina say it’s alright, don’t suck her MP until she collapses.”

“Understood, master.”

I guess I’ll let Marina sleep here.

“Please tell Marina that I will come get her tomorrow morning.”

“Understood. By then, I would have completed the construction of master’s base.”

“Thank you.”

I replied as I carried the scrap woods and left My World.

Having returned to Otherworld, I walked back to where the others were and the four of us grilled fish to eat.

The fish that Stella grilled was quite delicious.

It’s quite sad knowing that among the female members that I travel with, the first to cook a proper meal was the Cat Sith Stella.

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Haru, Carol, and Stella were sleeping in the carriage.

While on bonfire duty, I looked at the starry sky.

The time to switch duty has passed slightly but I don't feel sleepy so I thought of staying up a little longer.

Just as I thought so ... it happened.

My skill — Presence Detection, detected multiple presences.

However, that number was not only one or two.

From the organized movements as if to surround us as they approached, I guessed they were probably enemies.

“Master!”

“Haru, you woke up huh.”

As expected. The opponents were approaching from downwind so I thought she wouldn't be able to smell them and she shouldn't have the Presence Detection skill either, maybe it was her feral intuition?

... Oops, Haru is not a wild animal. That was a slip of the tongue even if I only said it to myself.

“Haru, wake Carol and Stella! It's bandits!”

I shouted, at that time,

“Oi oi, Hume. We'll be troubled if you bundle us with bandits nya!”

“Obediently hand us Stella nya.”

“Oh, I smell fish too nya. Hand over the fish too nya!”

“Hand over the Silver Vine too nya!”

“We don't need money so just hand us the food nya!”

“Ah, hand us Stella too nya!”

They announced as what appeared surrounding us in a fan-shape were six gray cats ... no, Cat Siths.

All of them were armed with dagger-sized swords.

“Oi, Stella, are they your friends?”

“N ... no way, for the Seven Gray Stars to come here ... what happened to the King nya ...”

Stella was saying something cool while taking a pose though.

Erm, seriously, what is this?

Even though it was supposed to be some special Silver Vine harvest job, as expected, I sensed that it would lead to us getting entangled in some troublesome event like this.

However, before that, I had something I had to ask.

“Why are there only six of you even though you’re called the Seven Stars?”

(121) Six Stars

“Why are there only six of you even though you’re called the Seven Stars?”

The six of them averted their eyes to my question.

Was it perhaps something I shouldn’t have asked?

Just as I thought so, a member looked at me and said.

“There’s no longer a place here for her to return nya! We are no longer the Seven Gray Stars! We’re the Nyanto Six Stars nya!”

“Milk Dipper ... Does this world have the Big Dipper too?” (TL: The Milk Dipper constellation is a group of five bright stars in Sagittarius, it’s called South Dipper Six Stars in literal translation in Japanese. The Big Dipper is the seven brightest stars in the Ursa Major constellation, called North Dipper in literal translation in Japanese) “It’s not Milk Dipper nya! It’s Nyanto nya!” (TL: The Cat Sith is pronouncing both the same way because they say Milk Dipper(Nanto) as Nyanto) That’s why I’m saying, aren’t you saying Milk Dipper? But when I thought about it, I figured it out.

I thought for sure that it was mispronouncing Milk Dipper as Nyanto but it looks like Nyanto Six Stars is their official title.

Yup, it’s a name that fits them perfectly.

“More importantly, answer! What happened to the King nya! Did something happen nya!?”

“Shut up, if you want an answer then come with us nya!”

“I can’t travel with you all nya! I must bring back Silver Vine for the sake of the King nya!”

Stella and the Nyanto Six Stars opposed each other.

Yup, even though it’s supposed to be a serious atmosphere, I wonder. Them going nya nya really drops the feeling of tension.

“Stella, as expected, that time, you’re heart has been possessed by the devil nya.”

“Have you forgotten what that devil did to us nya?”

“You wretch who sold your soul to the devil, there’s no longer any value in bringing you to the King. I’ll defeat you here nya!”

They said as the Nyanto Six Stars all equipped claw on both arms.

All their jobs were Pugilist.

It’s not like I can’t win but, yeah ... looking behind me, Carol was also tilted her head with a slightly troubled expression.

That’s right. Even though I’m the dog faction, I can’t really get into a serious fighting mood against Cat Sith opponents whose size don’t even reach my knees.

Does Haru think the same way too?

When I looked at Haru with such thoughts,

” ... Uoo!”

I was shocked by an unexpected sight.

Her two swords smashed the cat claws.

“What! This dog is not bad nya!”

“Even though you’re just a dog, even though you’re just a dog.”

“Like we honorable Cat Sith race would lose to a dog nya!”

Even though she was called a dog despite being a wolf, Haru’s expression was neither angry nor sad.

“Such provocations has no meaning in front of my loyalty to my master.”

Haru then pointed her two swords at the Nyanto Six Stars.

“This time, I will aim for those necks. My task is to defend Stella-san. Not to kill you guys. I will not chase if you all retreat.”

“Tch, you wolf that wears a dog’s skin.”

No, Haru is originally a wolf.

“You shall not spit out such words that look down on us nya!”

But we’re always physically looking down at you.

“We hold no fear against you swords nya!”

Your feet are trembling quite a bit you know.

“My one finger is more than enough nya!”

Yeah, that’s because nine out of ten of your claws has been shattered by Haru.

“We Nyanto Six Stars never retreat! Never curry favor! Never look back!”

No, those cute appearances probably let them butter up to people quite a bit.

“For my sake, your —”

“So you still want to fight huh ... even though the victor has already been determined.”

Haru readied her swords as she blocked the lines of the last Cat Sith.

She was probably faithfully keeping to my request to stay calm at any time.

But I don’t want Haru to slice and kill the Cat Siths. It’s my personal desire.

But, it doesn’t look like the Nyanto Six Star will be retreating.

... We have a carriage. Then it should be easy to escape if we buy a certain amount of time.

If that’s the case ...

“Haru, Carol! It’s an order! Ride on the carriage with Stella! I am more than enough here.”

“But Master.”

“Haru, this is an order!”

I said it as an order. Haru will not be able to oppose it. It’s the effect of the Slave Collar.

Sorry, Haru. I’ll stroke your ears aplenty later so please forgive me.

“Let’s go, Stella-san.”

Carol grabbed Stella and ran to the carriage.

Haru also followed after them.

Then, I ...

“You bastard intend to fight the six of us alone nya?”

“I have no intention of fighting.”

I grinned and put my hand into my item bag,

“Here here here!”

I took out six apples and threw them out by rolling them.

“What do you think you’re doing nya.”

“Like mere apples will phase the Nyanto Six Stars nya.”

“What did you think it would achieve nya?”

“What a joke nya.”

“Nyanya!”

“I can’t stop my hands nya.”

The Nyanto Six Stars were playfully playing with the rolling apples.

Very good, now’s the chance.

I spun to the right and flew onto the carriage by jumping.

“As expected of Master! Let’s go!”

The carriage raced forward and made a large detour to bypass the Nyanto Six Stars and we could no longer see them before long.

Then, we moved on.

To the Cat Sith village.

(122) Request Cancel

After proceeding for a certain distance, I caught sight of a small stream and lowered the speed of the carriage. I guess they won't chase us anymore since we have escaped this far. The sun was beginning to set so I decided to stop the carriage for a while. I've been too unreasonably hard on Fuyun.

Haru unlatched Fuyun from the cart and brought him to the stream to let him have a drink.

"By the way, does the Cat Sith have anything to do with the name of the country Dakyat?"

After climbing down from the cart and checking that the wheels didn't have any defects, I asked that question that suddenly came to me.

Since I thought that it was way too good a coincidence that the country the Cat Siths were living in was called Da·Kyat.

"I heard that the 'Da' from Dakyat was taken from the abbreviation of 'Deka' (Large) so it means large cat, in other words, it refers to the slightly large cats, Cat Siths. Cat Siths can often be seen in Dakyat so it's quite a convincing theory."

It's here! Carol's trivia corner. As expected of her extensive knowledge.

In other words, Cat Siths lived in this land before Dakyat was founded.

When I thought so,

"That's wrong nya. This country's name, since long long long ago ... erm, the King from countless generations ago handed over most of the nation's territory to the humans with the condition of keeping the name nya."

Stella interjected with that.

"Is that true? That."

"I've not heard of such information before."

Carol denied it but Stella shook her head.

“It’s true nya! It’s common knowledge among Cat Siths.”

Stella insisted. Regardless of it being true or not, it didn’t look like there would be a conclusion even if they started a dispute here. Since all countries would tamper with the history to make their own country look better. And unfavorable information would usually be removed. All I got out from it was that the Cat Siths lived in this country before the name of this country was decided.

Yup, if I had the power, maybe I should make history state that ‘Ichinosuke’ was in high demand in the Japan job market but he discarded all of it and traveled to another world? ... No, that’s quite vain. I’ll stop falsifying my past.

“By the way, Stella. Is the Cat Sith village still a distance away?”

” ... A little further nya. It’s at the center of that forest nya.”

The forest Stella was referring to — I couldn’t see it clearly from there but I did indeed faintly see a forest in the distance ... I think.

“But, I wish to stop by somewhere before we go to the village.”

“Ah, is it where the special Silver Vine tree grows?”

The request I received was nothing more than protection during harvesting. Of course, I didn’t forget it.

“That’s right nya. It’s a Holy Land that can be said to be the Sacred Ground for the Cat Sith race.”

“Wait a minute.”

Besides the question I had that isn’t ‘Holy Land’ and ‘Sacred Ground’ pretty much the same thing, there was something I had to ask.

“Is there no problem with us entering such a place?”

If it’s the Holy Land for the Cat Siths, it can be said to be out of bounds to outsiders. Won’t we need special permission like getting the King’s permission to enter?

Well, if the Holy Land has changed into a sightseeing ground then it’s

different.

“It’s a problem nya. But, it’s not a problem nya.”

What’s with that contradiction?

“In the first place, nobody has been able to enter that Holy Land for centuries nya.”

” ... Why?”

“A dragon has made its nest at the entrance of the Holy Land so nobody could enter nya.”

I see.

It’s a request for harvesting protection and monster extermination huh, yup.

“Very well, let’s go back.”

“Why nya!?”

“Are you an idiot! A dragon is a fierce monster right! Why would we face such danger for the sake of harvesting Silver Vine!”

If I was an RPG hero, I would exterminate the dragon even if it is just for the sake of an apple. Since it would raise a flag. But this was reality. I am neither a man of valor nor a hero. I refused from the beginning when Koshmar-sama offered since I didn’t want to do such work. You can entrust such work to someone like Suzuki.”

“Is it something that even Ichino-sama can’t beat?”

“That’s not true nya! With Haru-san’s ability with the sword and your master who is even stronger, there are no enemies that you two can’t beat nya!”

“It’s nyot a problem of whether it can be byeaten or not!”

“Ichino-sama, your pronunciation is changing.”

“It’s not a problem of whether it can be beaten or not! The reward is too insignificant compared to the danger. The request reward to be paid is even payment in kind instead of gold.”

Haru returned too and when I explained the situation, she glimpsed at Stella’s

face and also agreed to my opinion although she hesitated. I felt sorry for Stella but I am not the type to do a high-risk low-return job just out of kindness.

“Give me a moment, I’ll go there and bring Marina back.”

I thought that it was about time her MP recovered so I went out of sight and transferred to My World.

In any case, I gradually felt more afraid of accepting this job.

Nyanto Six Stars, Cat Sith King and Devil. Nothing but suspicious phrases keep appearing so it didn’t feel like it would be an easy job. As long as the request details were inadequate, we probably won’t have to face the request cancellation penalty.

While thinking that, I entered My World and saw Malina instead of Marina together with Pionia.

For some reason, Pionia was not wearing the cotton clothes I passed to her but a maid uniform.

“That’s right. You’re just like the cat I used to have in the past. My only friends were cats and dolls so I got overexcited.”

“I see, Master Malina.”

“Yup, that’s right Pionia-chan. As expected of Pionia-chan, I think you would suit these clothes too.”

“Then I will change.”

When Malina took out a gothic lolita costume, Pionia expressionlessly placed her hand on her skirt and —

“Wait a minute! I’m here, I’m here so stop!”

I shouted for her to stop. It looks like Malina has been treating and playing with Pionia literally as a doll.

I was wondering where the heck did she prepare such clothes when I noticed that the log house was already completed and in front of it were spinning and weaving machine-like contraptions and there were even tubs of dyes prepared. Pionia sure does work quickly.

She actually achieved this much in just a single night.

“I, Ichino-chan ... welcome.”

“Ou, I just returned. We’ve left to the southwest for a request but it ends up that I’ll be canceling the request. We’ll be returning to Ferruit. Some troublesome fools might come on our way back so Malina please come with us.”

“Al ... all righ ... right. Er, would it be better if Marina came instead of me?”

“No, please stay as you are now unless we encounter enemies. We will keep a lookout with my Enemy Detection skill and Hawk-Eye as well as Haru’s nose.”

Lately, the time Malina has spent without her mask has lengthened. If she continues like this, one day she might be able to speak with us like she does with Pionia ... or that might be impossible but maybe at least to the extent of not stuttering when having everyday conversations with us.

Well then, shall we go?

“Would Pionia like to come along? I figured you’d like to breathe the outside air too.”

“No, I cannot go outside. Once I exit, the magical power will be drawn from my body and I won’t be able to move for about an hour.”

” ... Serious?”

“Yes.”

Pionia said expressionlessly.

... I didn’t know that.

Homunculus, the dwarf in a flask.

To her, won’t this world be nothing more than an enormous flask?

I ... was it the right choice to create Pionia?

There was silence for a short time.

“I ... Ichino-san.”

Maybe she couldn’t stand the atmosphere, Malina spoke.

“Pionia-chan ... when she ate the grapes ... ah ... she made an expression ... like it was unpleasant.

“Eh?”

What’s with that random information. Does she hate grapes?

“Those grapes ... are meant for making wine ... so they aren’t ... tasty.”

” ... Er.”

“But, after that ... she showed just a slightly happy expression when she ate an apple.”

“I see, then maybe I will make something like an apple pie next time.”

” ... Pionia-chan ... can be happy here too.”

Malina’s words were completely beyond my expectations and I found out that she was actually perceptive to both my and Pionia’s feelings.

It’s pathetic that I selfishly considered that she can only be unhappy for not being able to leave here.

“Really? That’s true. Sorry, Pionia.”

” ... Master.”

Pionia looked at me,

“I look forward to the apple pie.”

“Ou, leave it to me. In exchange, please create a kiln.”

“Understood.”

Maybe I’ll have Carol enter this world to chat with her on the way home.

I thought as I exited with Malina.

Then,

“”Ah.””

Malina and Stella saw each other and the next instant —

“Stella-chaaaaaaaaaaaaan!”

“It’s the devil! The devil has appeareeeeeeed!”

A mysterious chemical reaction occurred and Malina tackled the fleeing Stella with full force.

(123) Malina's rampage

I don't know what happened.

When Malina who suddenly went berserk caught Stella, she took out a foxtail grass from somewhere and was now playing with Stella.

"Malina is my companion but what's with her being the devil? Stella."

I figured that it would be faster to ask Stella instead of Malina. While playing with the foxtail grass, Stella had a docile expression. Even though she had that expression, she continued to mess with the foxtail grass.

"About a year ago, two Humes who called themselves peddlers came to our village nya."

Stella said. Those two were most likely Malina and Kanon. Malina was initially Marina with her mask on, in other words, she was conversing normally as Marina but immediately after a Cat Sith removed her mask, she went berserk. After performing every single possible method of incapacitating the Cat Siths in the village, she continued to talk to the immobilized Cat Siths for three days and three nights.

Kanon tried but failed to stop her and she continued talking before her stamina ran out and Kanon carried Malina away.

However, the Cat Siths that Malina toyed with couldn't move properly for two days after that so she was known as the devil.

After speaking until there, Stella was unable to continue speaking. She had continued to play with the foxtail grass until she no longer had the strength to speak. From there, Malina rattled on.

"It's been a long time Stella-san. Not a single day has gone by that I've not thought about Stella-chan and others. I would think these clothes look like it would suit Stella-san when I go to a clothes store or that Stella-san would probably like this alcohol. Ah, of course, not only Stella-san, I also thought

about the others too and I also thought about all the Cat Siths. Like for example, a straw hat would suit Foyon-san who does farm work or a fishing rod that I would like to give Piri-san who loves to fish. But, as fellow females, I still think of Stella-san the most after all. I gathered the courage and asked Kanon. For us to travel to the Cat Sith village once again. But Kanon refused adamantly with a drawn back expression. Don't you think she's horrible? Just last month we were nearby and I proposed to come here but she ignored me and didn't do so. Even though I think about you all so much. Ah, but Stella-san is seriously cute. Stella-san, you like Silver Vine wine right. Ah, I would have prepared it if I knew I would be meeting Stella-san, what a shame. But that's asking for too much right. Since it's a godsend that I can even meet Stella-san. Eh? Has Stella-chan grown taller? About 3 mm. I prefer smaller types but Stella-san is still in her growth phase so it's good that you have grown taller. Even though I prefer the petite Stella-san, even if you have grown taller, it won't change your charm. Ah, that's right. There's a shop that sells delicious fish dishes at Ferruit. Maybe we can go there together next time? Don't worry, I'll pay. I'm sure even Stella-san would be satisfied. But it's a shame that there's only freshwater fish. But those freshwater fishes are cooked with sea salt that is rare around this region. That's why it's extremely delicious with a sweetness within the saltiness you know? It's slightly expensive because of that though. Ah, it's definitely not because I want to have Stella-san owe me a favor. I'm satisfied with just talking with Stella-san like this. Ah, Stella-san Stella-san Stella-san Stella-san Stella-san Stella-san Stella-san Stella-san, fufufu, I'm thankful just to be able to call Stella-san's name. By the way, you — ”

It ... it's not the usual Malina. Who is this? Stella was looking faint from that severe flood of words. She's talking even more than when she was with Pionia. Now that I think about it, she did mention when she was talking with Pionia that her conversation buddies were only either dolls or the pet cat she owned.

In other words, Malina talked to Stella like she was talking to a pet cat she owned. A cat reacts differently compared to a doll so she was probably stimulated to converse more. But it's more of a one-sided talk rather than a conversation.

“Master —”

“Ah, er, Malina. Can I have a moment.”

“And you know, it was amazing. Ichino-san shot a spell at the monster herd and caused a huge explosion —”

It’s hopeless, it looks like Malina doesn’t intend to talk to me at all. That’s right, Stella did say that Malina turned strange after her mask was removed. Then Marina should be alright.

Malina’s mask was peeking out from her skirt pocket.

I took the mask and placed it on Malina.

” ... I’ve shown you an embarrassing side of me.”

Even with the mask covering her face, Marina looked like she was embarrassed as she bowed.

“Have you calmed down?”

“Yeah, looks like I’ve gone slightly crazy after seeing a nostalgic face. To me, Stella is an extremely close friend. She showed interest towards the plum wine I had and (it was karma how) her interest was aroused to the extent of changing her job to become a Silver Vine wine craftsman.”

I’d prefer if she stopped adding strange words here and there but I see, the part where she sold her soul to the devil that the Nyanto Six Stars talked about was probably how she was tempted by Marina into becoming a Silver Vine wine craftsman.

“And so, why is Ichino together with Stella?”

“Ah, about that —”

I explained the situation. About how we received her request. About how the request had inadequate information. About how danger would be involved once we have to face a dragon and hence my decision to cancel the request.

I told her everything. And then —

“Ichino. This is not somewhere I should butt in but could you accept this request (quest)? I can’t ignore a friend in need.”

“Marina, please be sensible.”

Haru said that.

“Dragons are strong foes. Even the Pochi-san that Suzuki-san rides on is a sub-dragon, a race that is inferior to dragons, in other words, dragons hold greater strength than the Pochi-san that Suzuki-san rides on, especially the Dragon King, even the Demon Lord-sama wishes to avoid combat with it, even going near it is a danger. The request content was for the harvesting of Silver Vine for the sake of Silver Vine wine production. Unless it concerns a person’s life, it is not a request that must be completed no matter what.”

Haru told Marina with a cool head. Marina couldn’t say anything against Haru’s sound argument.

“Everyone want to return to Ferruit and occasionally eat delicious stuff again right?”

“That’s right, maybe we can go to the freshwater fish shop that Malina talked about just now.”

Marina said facing down with a slight smile.

“We have quite some gold but we’ve been spending it frugally right? We also don’t spend luxuriously. But I occasionally want to let loose and spend a sum of money.”

Then, I said with a smile.

“Don’t you think dragon materials would fetch a high price?”

Marina raised her head to my words. Then, Stella who just got a hang of herself also understood the meaning, “You’ll continue the request nya?”

“I would have canceled if Stella was an ordinary requestor. But since you are Marina’s friend, I wish to do as much as I am capable of.”

I also thought that it was a disadvantageous characteristic.

“I’ll say this first, we’ll decide after seeing the dragon. If it is an opponent that we won’t be able to beat no matter how hard we try, no, if it is an opponent that would cause us serious injuries, I would withdraw without hesitation. I’ll have Haru make that decision. Is that alright?”

“Of course nya.”

“Haru, are you alright with it too?”

“I will follow master’s words.”

Haru said subserviently. I hugged that Haru and warmly patted her head.

“Sorry, Haru. You’ve gotten an undesirable task because of me.”

“Those words are wasted on me.”

Haru said as her tail slowly swung from side to side.

Well then, shall we go earn the Dragon Slayer title?

Before that — I’m still feeling uneasy after all so I want to go somewhere to level up.

(124) Spirit shadows that gather at the swamp

I entered the forest. I had Stella guide me to locations where monsters often appear.

When I asked her what kind of monsters would appear, she said that the majority would be ghost-type monsters so I changed my jobs to the magic-inclined jobs.

I'll confirm my status.

Name:	Ichinojo	Race:	Hume
Job:	Jobless Lv88 (9↑)	Earth Magician Lv1	Fire Magician Lv1
Alchemist Lv29	Magician Lv64 (32↑)		
HP:	332/332 (10+19+19+105+124) (x1.2) (65↑)		
MP:	895/895 (8+58+58+201+421) (x1.2) (382↑)		
Phy Atk:	326 (9+11+11+123+91) (x1.2) (19↑)		
Phy Def:	294 (7+13+13+122+113) (x1.1) (28↑)		
Mag Atk:	916 (4+39+39+294+541) (x1.1) (311↑)		
Mag Def:	973 (3+29+29+252+498) (x1.2) (387↑)		
Speed:	222 (4+9+9+82+98) (x1.1) (2↓)		
Luck:	55 (10+10+10+10+10) (x1.1)		
【Equipment】			
Cotton Clothes	Hide Shoes	Iron Light Armor	Asclepius's Staff
【Skills】			
「Sword Equip II」 「Slash II」 「Rotational Slash II」 「Swordsmanship Strengthening (medium)」 「Dual Wield」			
【Acquired Titles】			
「Rare Hunter」 「Skill Maniac」 「Job Maniac」 「Labyrinth Conqueror IV」 「The Way of the Sword」 「Peak of Apprentice Magician」 「Peak of Hunter」 「Peak of Apprentice Practitioner」 「Peak of Pugilist」 「Peak of Hammer-user」 「Peak of Apprentice Blacksmith」			

【Possible Job Changes】			
Jobless Lv85	Commoner Lv75	Farmer Lv8	Hunter Lv60★
Lumberjack Lv14	Apprentice Swordsman Lv40★	Apprentice Magician Lv40★	Peddler Lv6
Apprentice Spearman Lv1	Swordsman Lv60★	Archer Lv1	Apprentice Alchemist Lv37
Magician Lv64	Axe-user Lv1	Hammer-user Lv40★	Pugilist Lv60★
Philanderer Lv13	Magic Journalist Lv7	Apprentice Practitioner Lv40★	Alchemist Lv29
Dismantler Lv16	Apprentice Blacksmith Lv40★	Blacksmith Lv29	Practitioner Lv48
Musician Lv1	Singer Lv1	Dancer Lv1	Artist Lv10
Magic Swordsman Lv12	Fire Magician Lv1	Water Magician Lv1	Wind Magician Lv1
Earth Magician Lv1	Samurai Lv1	Sword Saint Lv1	Gladiator Lv1
Hammer Warrior Lv1			
【Blessings】			
20x experience point acquisition			
1/20 required experience points			

Even though it was specialized towards magical power, my physical attack and physical defense were comparable to ordinary adventurers.

For the time being, my weapon was a staff.

We were inside a dense and lush forest so it did have the atmosphere where ghosts are likely to appear.

“It feels like they’re going to come out, Ichino! They’ll appear!”

Marina was excited and in high spirits. This girl is certainly the type to be in extremely high spirits during test of courage games which would end up ruining the event.

“Marina, I predict that Malina would be afraid of ghosts instead?”

“No, she’s not particularly bad with the souls of the dead. Since they won’t talk to her after all.”

That's unexpected, Malina is also fine with ghosts too huh? Moreover, Carol was also calm.

"Carol is also not afraid of ghosts?"

"Since I'm a lot more afraid of my own power at night."

... Please don't say such sorrowful things. That's right, night comes to mind when talking about ghost but to Carol, the fear of the night is an attack from monsters due to her ability rather than ghosts. Even if she's in a sealed room, if air leaks out from anywhere, it would lure monsters to her. The fear of ghosts probably can't compare to that fear.

Now that I look around, there aren't any girls who look like they are afraid of ghosts.

"If the opponents are ghosts, Carol and Haru won't get a turn for combat ... eh?"

I looked at Haru who was walking at the rearmost — Eh?

It looked like Haru's feet were shaking.

"Haru?"

"... What is it? Master."

"No, it's nothing."

I thought that she was clearly afraid of ghosts but Haru was expressionless like usual. I thought it was just my imagination but when I looked at her tail, it was standing on end. She's afraid.

"Haru, don't tell me you are afraid of ghosts?"

"No, I am not afraid of ghosts but of what can't be cut by these two swords."

Haru said and drew her two swords.

"That's why I will definitely show you how I cut a ghost."

"Ah ... okay. Try your best."

In the first place, it's my world's common sense that ghost can't be cut so it might not be the same in this world.

It might not be possible with a regular sword but Haru's favorite sword, the Fire Dragon's Fang is a fire attribute sword. It might be able to defeat ghosts.

"Stella, is it possible to defeat ghost with physical attacks?"

"It's possible as long as it is an attribute attack apart from Darkness attribute nya. But multiple attacks are needed if attributed swords apart from those possessing light attribute are used nya."

I see. They are invincibility towards unattributed attacks, have strong resistance towards other attribute attacks and are weak towards light attribute.

"I see. Then, Haru can defeat them too. Marina's bow would play an active role too but I guess my light magic would play the largest role."

Or rather, I would be troubled if that wasn't the case.

If for example, Haru defeated a monster and that monster gives 200 experience points, the experience would be distributed as 125 to Haru, 25 to me, 25 to Carol and 25 to Marina.

But, if I defeated the monsters, it would give 20 times the experience points so I would get 2500, Haru would get 500, Carol 500 and Marina 500.

The difference is evident.

"Around where would ghosts appear?"

"Around the swamp ahead nya ... be careful nya."

Stella's voice became serious.

Swamp ghost huh? I'm slightly scared.

But since all my companions said that they aren't afraid, my men's pride is involved.

"So would they be like people who drowned in the swamp?"

Is there perhaps a tragic legend involved?

"Ichino-sama, ghosts are not only humans but the embodiment of the miasma from slain monsters that gathered in a special environment. In a swamp, there's a high possibility that the miasma is more related to something like fishes."

“Ah, is that so, there is also fish type too huh?”

Fish ghost huh? It isn't that scary when I imagine that. Yup.

“If it's fish then it would turn into grilled fish under Haru's sword — Haru?”

“What's wrong?”

“N, no, nothing's wrong.”

Haru's expression was calm but her tail was not only standing on end, it was trembling at about the rate of 30 tremors a second. How is it that she can still look at me and ask ‘What is it? Master?’ when she's trembling that much? That sure is mysterious.

Well, Haru probably won't be afraid after she defeats a fish ghost.

We headed to the swamp as I thought that.

There we saw, flying in the air — a mouse ghost.

“Today's a great success too nya. We always hunt down mice here so it is filled with nothing but mouse ghost nya!”

A large number of mice about the size of common rats were running around in the air. Doesn't that number easily surpass the thousand mark?

Nevertheless, just how many did they hunt to make so many ghost mice gather?

While I was still taken aback, a single wind arrow penetrated a mouse ghost.

“So weak ... become a messenger of the netherworld, I shall guide you to that world.”

Marina was enthusiastically shooting with her magic bow.

Very good, I can't lose to her.

Just when I thought that, —

I heard the sound of something collapsing behind us.

“Ichino-sama! Haru-san has fainted!”

” ... Yup, just let her sleep like that. It would be pitiful for Haru if we wake her up here.”

Haru was pushing herself after all.

I'll keep a look out from next time onwards.

Author's note:

Regarding the status, I've been managing it fairly suitably but since this has novelized, I plan to introduce a status management software so that it can be managed precisely.

There might be alterations at a later date. I seek your understanding.

(125) I can ... cut it?

As a result of defeating the ghost mice, my low-level Earth Magician and Fire Magician jobs leveled up greatly.

Fire Magician and Earth Magician rose to Lv12, furthermore, Jobless rose to Lv89, Alchemist to Lv33 and Magician to Lv67.

【Ichinojo leveled up】

【Fire Magician skill: 「Fire Magic II」has skilled up to「Fire Magic III」】

【Fire Magician skill: 「Fire Resistance (minor)」acquired】

【Earth Magician skill: 「Earth Magic II」has skilled up to「Earth Magic III」】

【Earth Magician skill: 「Earth Resistance (minor)」acquired】

【Alchemist skill: 「Instant Alchemy」acquired】

【Magician skill: 「MP Strengthening (small)」has skilled up to「MP Strengthening (medium)」】

【Recipies acquired】

I'm happy to have the increase in MP. The construction of the world would be easier in the future.

Incidentally, my MP rose by 20% due to 「MP Strengthening (small)」. When it became 「MP Strengthening (medium)」, it rose to 30 percent.

The rise in my status values was also huge. As expected of an Advanced job. While it is difficult to raise the job level, the returns are considerable.

By the way, the defeated ghost drops beautiful stones called 'spirit spheres'. Those stones may not be gems but they are apparently materials for jewelry and are also requested items by the guild, each stone can be traded for about 100 sense. We've collected 100 of them so it's 10000 sense or 1 million yen huh?

We've earned quite a sum.

Well then — the head of the mouse that ran away without participating in the fight peeked out of the corner and I hit it with my staff. When I did that, 『Picon』

Such a sound rang out. This is it, the new skill that I learned and was waiting for the moment I can utilize it.

Pico-Pico Hammer: Combat Skill 【Hammer-user Lv40】

Attacking with this skill will make a cute sound.

Attack damage is significantly reduced but has a high chance of stunning the opponent.

Of course, I won't be able to hit it if I hit it normally with a staff so instead, I used Enchant Magic — a Magic Swordsman skill — to grant my staff the fire attribute usually used for the flame sword.

Since my goal was not to defeat it but to stun it, I wasn't bothered by the attack damage.

“Well then, I guess I'll wake Haru up.”

“Wake her up? Haru-san is ...”

Carol worriedly asked me. She also understood that Haru fainted because she saw the ghosts.

She likely thought that I would wake her up once we finished fighting completely.

However, that would be good for me but not for Haru.

She is a strong girl.

“Leave it to me if we are to wake Haru-san!”

Stella confidently hit her chest with her paws.

Then, she pressed those paws onto Haru's chest.

“Cat Knight Secret Technique, Paw Resuscitation!”

I thought I heard that as Haru woke up with a groan.

Then, I said to Haru.

“Don’t faint this time.”

” ... Yes, I apologize for what happened just now.”

Haru’s tail stood on end. She sensed it. The presence of a ghost.

Then, I won’t hide it anymore.

I showed Haru the ghost mouse that had fallen to the ground.

“Haru, can you defeat it?”

” ... Is it alright to?”

Haru asked. Whether it was alright to defeat something I had weakened to that extent herself.

“Sorry, I phrased it wrongly.”

I grinned and told Haru.

“Defeat it!”

Three words. With just those three words, I felt the hesitation and fear disappear from Haru’s expression — or rather, her tail.

The Fire Dragon’s Fang — sliced through the ghost mouse.

The ghost mouse shrieked and quickly disappeared, leaving just a ghost sphere.

“I can ... cut it?”

Haru picked up the ghost sphere and stared at it.

“Yeah, you can. If it’s an opponent that Haru’s sword can’t cut, won’t it be someone at the level of your master?”

I joked.

” ... Thank you, master.”

Haru said and bowed down low.

“Hey now Haru. That was where you were supposed to say you would someday overtake me.”

“I will someday become a knight that is capable of protecting you.”

I said as I raised Haru’s head and stroked her ears.

Seriously — doesn’t she understand that it is the man’s job to protect the girl?

But, thinking back to how I fought while entrusting my back to Haru — that combination fits us surprisingly well. Even though Haru’s specialty, her agility, is lost when I entrust my back to her, with her protecting my back, I can demonstrate greater power than usual.

“I’ll be counting on you, Haru. And also Carol and Marina ... ”

“Don’t make such a face. That’s so ill-omened before we go exterminate the dragon. Don’t underestimate the power of words.”

Marina poked fun at me.

“Otto, that’s right. We’ve become stronger so ... let’s go exterminate the dragon ... ”

(126) Starting a fight with a Dragon

Dragon.

The representative of Fantasy settings.

In stories, there are cases of them being deified and if antagonized, they are existences that can stump protagonists with their overwhelming power.

It's natural to believe that they can sprout flames from their mouths but lately, they are nasty beings that are even commonly depicted to spit out ice and poisonous breaths.

Be that as it may, those are but fictional depiction in games and such.

However, Koshmar-sama said it before. In the first place, in order to make the Otherworld more easily acceptable to reincarnators like me, people from Earth were subconsciously made to create games in our world.

In actual fact, the Pochi that Suzuki has as a pet — that wyvern is exactly the same as what I imagined.

If that's the case, we'll have to be cautious after all.

"This way nya."

Stella led the way with a soft whisper.

"It seems convenient to have a small body at times like these to hide. Right, Carol."

"Ichino-sama, why do you seek my agreement for such a thing ... I'm not that small."

Carol pouted and sulked.

" ... Are you conscious of your size?"

"No ... I'm not conscious of my size but (... it's because Ichino-sama don't properly see me as an adult)"

“Sorry, I couldn’t really hear the last part of your sentence.”

“It’s nothing.”

It looks like I somehow angered her. Carol is normally so reliable so I inadvertently forgot that she’s still a kid. Maybe her stress level has been accumulating due to the harsh journey. I might have to let the four of them have an enjoyable shopping session or something similar when we return to town to relieve their stress.

“Ichino. This is not the place to fool around.”

” ... That’s true. I’ve been sensing a strong presence since just now.”

The enemy’s presence was slightly different from the usual presence of monsters. For weak monsters, ah, how do I put it, it would give a certain degree of presence while monsters with killing intent will give a sharp piercing presence.

However, it would become harder to differentiate once the number of enemies increases causing the presences to mix together but this time the presence was — expressing in words, it was a mighty presence. It felt like it gave off a strong headwind just by standing there.

We would probably see him once we pass through the grass patch here.

Even so, how do I put it?

I felt that it was not an unbeatable opponent.

“Carol, please try out Charm Magic from a distance. Marina, please aim for the weak points of the enemy with your magic bow — somewhere like the eyes or the inside of the mouth.”

“Understood.”

“Leave it to me — nothing is able to escape from my third eye.”

Carol nodded while Marina said with confidence.

Before Marina opens her third eye, I’d rather she takes off that mask and widen her first and second eyes’ field of vision.

“Haru, we’ll be fighting in front. With Marina’s skill, I’m not really worried but

we'll fight while avoiding her line of attack. We'll start the battle with the usual Slash attack. Also, when I shout 'Spread out', please distance yourself from the Dragon as much as possible. Since I'll be using my magic that has the strongest attack power."

"Understood."

Haru nodded.

"Stella, please hide somewhere. I don't know if I have the leeway to do a follow-up for Stella if you make a mistake. Also, to everyone apart from Stella, I'll leave the space open. If you deem that it is dangerous, please escape to that place."

I said that and used the Hikikomori skill to create the door to My World.

Well prepared means no worries.

I'll set up as much insurance as possible.

This time it's not to level up but to have a battle.

I configured my jobs to Jobless, Sword Saint, Swordsman, Magic Swordsman and Gladiator.

I set them to jobs that are fixated with the sword.

Although the final blow would likely be done with magic.

Then, I peeked over from the bushes.

There was a cave on a cliff at a barely reachable height and beside that cave was a lizard about twice the size of the Boss Fish Lizard — a Dragon.

The Dragon's color was brown.

If it's brown then it might be an Earth Dragon or since it's close to red, it might be a Flame Dragon too.

"So it's a Bronze Dragon ..."

Carol muttered below me on my right.

I see, instead of brown, it's a gold-copper alloy color like those used for ten yen coins.

“It’s categorized in the weaker group among Dragons as it has no special attacks and can’t spit breath attacks — but, it’s still an opponent that needs a 6-man party of Adventurers above B-rank.”

“B-rank ... I see.”

Haru muttered. She’s currently an Adventurer of the lowest rank.

“Don’t worry. You should know that your ability and your rank don’t match. Haru is strong.”

I pat Haru’s head.

“Very well, let’s go Haru.”

“Yes, master.”

Haru and I dashed out of the bushes.

At the same time, a wind arrow flew out from behind us aimed straight at the Dragon’s eye.

However —

【Guaaaaaaaaaaaaa!】

The roar that made me unconsciously cover my ears caused the air to tremble. Due to that, the wind arrow flew off in an unexpected direction.

Even though it’s in the weaker category, it’s still a Dragon huh?

While thinking of that, Haru and I released 「Slash」 together.

(127) A different world ... after all.

I would be lying if I said I didn't hope for an extraordinary victory.

I defeated an enemy, that needs a party of B-rank Adventurers to defeat, with a single attack. We defeated a monster that makes even the army take passive action just on our own. I was hoping that we could achieve such an impossible feat.

However —

The 「Slash」 I released hit the Dragon's right flank, causing a few scales to fly off and dyed the surrounding grass red with the blood spray but it was not a mortal wound.

The one released by Haru was aimed at the Dragon's belly but it was blocked by its forefoot and it didn't suffer any damage.

Damn it, I was too conceited.

“Amazing nya! Even though in theory one should aim for the thinner scales at the center of the belly because the scales on the back are tough, you actually even sliced through the scales!”

Stella excitedly shouted from within the bush she was hiding in.

Ah, so I was originally supposed to aim for the weak belly.

That was an oversight.

“Master, here it comes!”

At the same time Haru shouted that, the Dragon extended the enormous wings on its back — and somehow lifted that huge body.

(Oi oi oi oi! No matter how you put it, having those wings support such a large body is against the laws of physics!)

You might ask ‘What's the point of the wings on its back if it can't fly?’ but I frankly didn't think that those things on the Dragon's back were wings.

Unlike the Wyvern that doesn't have front legs, the Dragon has two front legs and two hind legs. Given that's the case, I thought that the wings on its back were not wings that had evolved from its front legs — but instead evolved shoulder blades.

No, I was lying. I wasn't thinking about that all.

Nevertheless, it's true that I thought that they were just useless appendages that can at most kick up some wind.

(It has considerable speed.)

I thought of something as the Dragon rose up to a certain altitude and swooped down.

I then took a large leap and rode on the back of the Dragon.

"I have to be careful since the scales on its back are hard —"

I said as I swung my blade down onto the back of the Dragon that was rising up into the air.

A couple of scales were sliced off and my sword stabbed deeply into the Dragon.

The Dragon rampaged as to fling me off but it couldn't shake off the sword that was deeply embedded in it and I did not release that sword from my grip.

I pulled the sword towards me with brute force.

It wasn't to cut it since I would have to pull sideways if my aim was to slice it as the sword was stabbed sideways.

"Master!!!!"

I could hear Haru's voice but her voice was gradually getting further.

The Dragon was rising up in the air. It was aiming for a distant height in the sky.

The Dragon flew over the forest canopy and into the cloudless sky, giving me the sensation that I had the sun all to myself.

Past the forest, vast grasslands were spread across on one side — the territory of Dakyat while on the other side, probably the territory of Korat,

there was a vast land with red soil. I couldn't see any further beyond that due to the mist.

(This place is ... a different world after all, right? This place is the Otherworld.)

Lately, I've been acting strangely. No matter how it is for a friend of Malina, I seriously wonder what am I doing challenging a Dragon, moreover for the sake of Silver Vine.

And in order to dispel my that sense of discomfort, I thought about why I'm taking such actions and why I am in such a place.

"I — what do I wish to do in this world —"

I muttered to myself as I felt the wind on my skin.

Lately, there has been days where, not to mention Japan, I have not even thought of Miri who I consider to be more important than myself similar to how I feel about Haru.

My wish is nothing but for Haru and Carol, and now including Malina and Pionia also, to live a peaceful life.

But, why did I involve myself with an incident like this?

Why did I poke my nose into other people's affairs?

Including the incident this time and the feud between Stella and the Nyanto Six Stars, I predict that there will be some kind of event.

What kind of action do I wish to take in response to that?

Will I allow myself to get involved in it again?

I looked at the Dragon below my feet and smiled slightly.

Then, believing in the Dragon's ability, I spoke.

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The Dragon slowly descended and landed on its original location. Haru took a stance prepared for battle but I restrained her with a wave of my hand.

After confirming that I had gotten off, the Dragon slowly ascended and flew off into the sky.

“Is it alright to not chase after it? Even though you said that you were planning to use the Dragon materials to make weapons.”

Haru asked as she saw off the Dragon. I shook my head sideways.

“Well, it dropped a few scales and more importantly, that Dragon fought me fair and square.”

At that time, the Dragon was only looking at me. Even though it noticed the presence of Haru who was beside, Marina who released the arrows and Stella who was hiding, it focused its attention on me and challenged me to battle.

“That Dragon looked like it was quite intelligent from the way it fought at first but after my attack, it had an honest one-on-one fight with me. Furthermore, it also let me see the best scenery I’ve seen.”

That’s why I tried to negotiate with the Dragon when we were in the sky.

You should clearly understand the difference in our abilities, right? If I was serious, I could have pierced your neck the moment I leaped onto you.

If you accept your defeat then slowly land at your original location. I’ll let you go if you do so.

That was how it went. Then, the Dragon really descended slowly. If my words didn’t get through, I thought that I would have to make it land by force.

I smiled lightly as I watched the Dragon fly off.

I thought of many things but in the end, I want to be happy. I believe everything is alright as long as I can be happy.

I’m content as long as I am happy together with Haru, Carol, Marina and Pionia ... with all the ones I care about.

(128) King's tree

“Amazing nya! You scared off a Bronze Dragon nya!”

Stella looked extremely delighted but Haru was looking at me expressionlessly.

Carol and Marina were also staring at me as if they were angry about something.

“Er, Haru, Carol, Marina ... what’s wrong?”

Haru stepped one step forward when I asked fearfully.

“Master, please don’t take such reckless actions. What would you have done if the Bronze Dragon died while in the air?”

N, no, if that happened — I would first open the door to My World below me and fall to my own world, close the door once I pass through it and once again repeat the process until I slowly descend but it felt like it wasn’t the atmosphere to give such an excuse.

After all, Carol’s eyes were swimming with tears.

” Sorry.”

I apologized honestly.

“How enviable, to leave me behind and become a Dragon Rider. Let me ride on it together next time.”

Marina said. The part that she was angry about was kind of different.

“Ah, er, Marina-san, I don’t think that’s what Carol and Haru want to say.”

“But don’t you think it’s great? A date in the skies.”

Marina’s smile was not directly at Carol or Haru but at me.

Haru’s tail stood on end while Carol looked down with her cheeks dyed red.

This Marina, stop teasing and playing with us.

I thought as Marina whispered at my ear.

“Malina also likes high places like that so it doesn’t matter which order it is, please bring her too.”

... Marina patted my shoulder and headed for the cave.

I felt like I was beaten by Marina.

I might really be able to have a date in the skies if I become a Monster-user and learn the Tame category skills to make the Dragon my companion.

It would be an honor but deciding the order would likely be troublesome.

Thinking about it normally, the best order would probably be by the order they started journeying with me so it would be Haru, Carol then Malina but then if it’s the first time two people are riding, I would prefer to try riding with the lightest Carol first.

Also, I probably have to consider Malina and Marina separately too?

If I do so, they might feel that it’s unfair how Malina gets to fly in the sky twice.

Or better yet, I should just let Marina fly on her own.

I also headed for the cave while having such thoughts. Stella, Haru and Carol also followed behind.

Halfway through, Marina moved to my back so we advanced in the cave with me in the lead.

“Nevertheless, it’s a strange feeling to have a tree inside a cave. Is it possible for a tree to grow in a place like this?”

“Light is able to shine in at the clearing at the back nya.”

“You mean there’s a hole in the cave ceiling? If that’s the case then wouldn’t it have been better if we entered through the ceiling?”

“It’s slightly different nya. There it doesn’t lead to the sky nya.”

I don’t really get it. Light shines through even though there’s no hole?

What does it mean?

After walking for a while, just like Stella described, I saw an opening and there was bright light leaking out.

It looks like the light was really shining in.

Then — when we arrived at the clearing, I was thankful that I could see that scenery the first among the party and above that, I was once again thankful that I could see that scenery together with all my party members.

I was moved.

“This, is the reason why the Cat Sith race calls this place our Holy Land nya.”

Stella proudly said and I could understand why she would boast of it.

She can boast about it more than someone who boasts that the Tokyo Sky Tree Tower is in his hometown.

Above that clearing, countless crystals were sparkling under the sunlight.

That spectacle was as if it was a huge natural chandelier.

The reflected light created shimmering patterns on the ground — and at the place where those lights were most densely focused, stood a single ancient tree.

I wonder if that is the Silver Vine tree we were looking for.

“Even though it’s just a Silver Vine tree, I can feel that it is a special tree since it is located here.”

“It’s not just a Silver Vine tree nya! That is called the King’s Tree, planted by the current Cat Sith King, which seed was taken from the Silver Vine trees planted by the first Cat Sith King who had a pilgrimage around the world planting the seeds of Silver Vine nya.”

“Ooo, I don’t really get it though — Carol, do you?”

Since Carol possesses the Plant Appraisal skill.

It should be able to at least tell if it is different from a regular Silver Vine tree. I thought.

However, Carol didn’t reply.

When I looked back, Carol was staring at the ancient Silver Vine tree with a frown.

“Carol?”

I once again called out to her and Carol gave a start.

“Sorry, Ichino-sama, I was thinking about something.”

“No, it’s alright. Silver Vine harvested from the King’s Tree huh ... it might give a lot of experience points.”

Maybe I should change job to Harvester.

Just as I had that thought.

“By the way, Master. I don’t smell Silver Vine at all?”

Haru’s nose was twitching as she said that.

“Eh? Now that you mention it ... there’s no smell nya.”

Stella suddenly collapsed — no, she got on all four and was sniffing with her nose.

Then, she was probably really flustered as she ran on all fours and climbed the Silver Vine tree.

“There’s none nya! None nya! There’s none anywhere nya!”

“What does this mean? Perhaps it needs slightly more time for the fruits to form?”

Well, it’s a plant in nature.

There are many cases where plants need a couple of weeks between harvest periods.

Or so I thought but —

“Ichino-sama. That Silver Vine tree ... has already ...”

Carol said with a slightly sad expression.

“It has already died. It might fall at any time. It probably ... can’t form Silver Vine fruits ... anymore, that’s what my Plant Appraisal says.”

When Carol said that, Stella's face turned pale blue.

"King ... the King is in danger nya!"

And said as she ran out of the cave.

I was stunned for a second due to the abruptness but, "We have to chase after her!"

We also chased after Stella and left the cave.

(129) Cat Sith village

It took just an instant to lose sight of Stella.

I could only see a pea-sized figure of her when we exited the cave and I could no longer see her when we returned to the forest. It was impossible to not lose sight of such a small figure moving quickly in the distance. I guessed that I had to rely on Haru's nose to lead the way.

I was about to call Haru over when Marina spoke to me.

"Stella is definitely heading for the Cat Sith village. I will lead the way."

"Ah, that's right. Marina has been to the Cat Sith village."

That was when Malina went berserk and was treated as a devil though.

"Then, I'll let you guide us to somewhere near the village and have you stay in My World after that."

"Umu, that's fine. Since the village will face unprecedented havoc if I visit it."

I can't deny that.

Even Stella who had a favorable impression of us had such a reaction. We might be treated as companions that the devil brought if strangers like us brought Marina to the village.

I'd prefer to avoid that.

"By the way, Marina. What kind of person is the Cat Sith King?"

"He's a huge black cat that has lived for centuries. Speaking of his size, he is comparable to that Bronze Dragon just now."

"... That's huge ... have you seen him before, Marina?"

"Umu, before Malina went berserk. I met him once when we went to offer him a scratching board as a gift. He was a really good king."

A scratching board ... they're totally treating him as a cat.

Actually, a scratching board for a huge cat the size of a Bronze Dragon will probably have to be custom-made so it would probably have value after all?

Just as I was having such thoughts, we entered a wide carriage road.

“This is the path. Along the way, there are multiple forks but we will arrive at the Cat Sith village if we take a left, right, left and right in that order.”

There, I opened the distortion to My World.

Haru and Marina entered My World. Then, Haru exited together with Fuyun. He was pulling the carriage.

It's convenient how things are capable of entering and exiting the distortion regardless of size.

Haru sat on the driver's seat while Carol and I rode in the carriage.

While we're at it, I also took out the barrel filled with Silver Vine from my item bag.

“Can I leave it to Carol to decide on how to utilize this whole barrel?”

“Yes, please leave it to Carol, Ichino-sama.”

Yup, when it comes to business, Carol is really reliable.

It most likely won't be wasted in Carol's hands.

The carriage was led according to Marina's directions and we sequentially took a left, right, left and right at the forks in the road.

After doing so, we arrived at a large clearing and I saw miniature houses like they were scaled down from regular houses.

So this is the Cat Sith village.

“Stop nya!”

“Halt nya!”

At the village entrance, two Calico Cat Siths stopped us with their spears raised.

“Do I have to pay an entrance fee?”

It's a chance to raise my Commoner level.

Or so I thought but,

“There’s no use for money in this village nya!”

“We don’t need money in this village nya!”

Was the subtle change in expression deliberate?

If they were going to do it then I would have preferred if they just aligned their replies.

I can’t distinguish between the faces of cats but their patterns were the same too so I guessed that they were twins.

“We came here together with Stella though.”

When I said that, the two Calico Cat Siths looked at each other and, “Stella-sama did not inform me of that nya!”

“I’ve not heard of it from Stella-sama nya!”

This looks troublesome.

I thought that as Carol alighted from the carriage, approached the two Cat Siths and said something to them by bending down.

Then, the two Calico Cat Siths looked at each other and, “Welcome nya, guest-sama!”

“We welcome you with open arms nya! Guest-sama.”

And greeted us with a welcoming mood with their arms wide open.

A small leather pouch was on the paws of those two hands.

Nevertheless, this village.

It’ll likely be an annoying village with the nya nya speech patterns.

I prayed that my speech pattern doesn’t switch over too.

“Stella-sama went to meet King-sama nya.”

“King-sama’s place is where Stella-sama went to nya.”

“Then, where is your King-sama at?”

When I asked that, the two of them replied the same way for the first time.

『There nya.』

I figured.

After all, even though all the other houses were 1/2 the usual size, only the furthest building in the village was so large that even a dragon could fit in it.

“Is it possible for us to enter there?”

I asked.

“If you wish to have an audience with King-sama, I think you can do so if you ask through Stella-sama nya.”

“I think if you ask through Stella-sama, you can have an audience with King-sama nya.”

And they once again returned to their replies with slightly different nuances.

Then, I asked the thing that was bothering me the most.

“You’ve been saying Stella-sama Stella-sama the whole time but is Stella really that great?”

The Calico Cat Siths once again looked at each other and said.

With an expression that said ‘you don’t even know something like that?’.

“Stella-sama was originally the Cat Sith’s Knight Squadron, the Nya Nya Gray Star’s Knight Captain nya.” (TL: Seven in Japanese is Nana, which the Cat Siths all pronounce ‘Na’ as ‘Nya’) “Originally, within the Cat Sith’s Knight Squadron, the Nya Nya Gray Star, Stella was the Knight Captain nya.”

... Stella was the Seven Gray Star’s leader despite being a black cat huh? But nevertheless, it has become the Nyanto Six Stars after Stella left.

Then, the two of them continued.

“Stella-sama is King-sama’s only daughter nya.”

“King-sama’s only daughter is Stella-sama nya.”

“I ... I see.”

Instead of the unexpected twist that Stella is actually a princess, I was more concerned about whether the expression of ‘only’ daughter is applicable even

for Cat Siths. (TL: Something else that doesn't translate well into English. In essence, the Japanese term used here for 'only/single' is literally 'one human' in Japanese so he's tsukkomi-ing their usage of it despite being cats)

(130) Audience with the Cat Sith King

With the two Cat Siths as guides, we arrived in front of the largest house.

Standing guard there were two other white Cat Sith soldiers in heavier equipment compared to the two Cat Siths who led the way. The armor looked heavy but that showed how important the place was.

“Halt nya! What business do you have here, Hume!”

It was a strong tone unlike the flippant gate guards just now.

They showed vigilance and even hostility.

“Ah, Carol is half-Hume and half-Mini Hume.”

“I am also not a Hume.”

Carol and Haru destroyed the atmosphere.

Now that they mentioned it, I’m the only pure Hume here. I might not even be a pure Hume in this world, having come from Earth, but my status says Hume though.

“I, I see ... don’t fool us nya! We will not let people apart from Cat Siths enter nya!”

We didn’t deceive you though.

“We came to see Stella. Could you please call her?”

“Stella-sama nya? I do smell Stella-sama’s scent on you people nya.”

“I see, thanks for understanding.”

It looked like we could enter the building without any problems.

Or so I thought.

But, the Cat Siths in front of my eyes didn’t move at all. It stared at me with its yellow pupil.

I had a bad premonition.

” ”

『 』

Silence dominated the area.

The ones who broke the silence were the Cat Sith twins(?) from just now.

“I’ll help you take it off if the armor is too heavy that you can’t move nya.”

“If you can’t move because of the armor, I’ll help you take it off nya.”

“Please do so nya. It’s been tough not being able to move since the day before yesterday nya.”

Are they idiots? There are idiots here.

For an instant, fellow acquaintances crossed my mind.

A red-haired boy and a green-haired girl, we parted ways just the other day but I wonder if they are doing well?

The Cat Siths were stark naked after taking off their armor but they were not ashamed at all for being naked and the white cats actually abandoned their guard post.

“I’ve got to go to the toilet nya!”

... They’ve been holding it in for three days huh.

I decided to wait by sitting on the stone steps for the guards to return.

The nervousness I had just now was blown away in an instant from that scene.

” ... It’s peaceful.”

As I was waiting for the soldiers to return while looking at the sky, I noticed that the Cat Sith children were surrounding us from a distance. The Cat Sith children were finally the size of regular cats. They looked cute. I inadvertently wanted to touch those ears but it might turn into a repeat of what Malina did if I don’t control myself.

” ... Haru, can I have a moment?”

I said to Haru who was sitting to my left and reached out with my hand.

“Yes, what is it? ... Au.”

Haru released a slightly erotic voice.

Because I suddenly touched her ear with my left hand.

Her fur is silky smooth but if I touch the inside of her ear with my finger, I can feel a warmth that tells me her body temperature. Furthermore, I can even feel a pulse so I can feel Haru directly.

“Please bear with it for a bit, I’m trying to re-affirm my stance towards the dog faction.”

” ... Au ... er, master, I am not a dog but from the White Wolf Race, have you forgotten?”

” ... I didn’t forget.”

I said with sweat running down my back and Haru looked like she was sulking ... she was basically expressionless but it still looked like she was sulking.

I’d like to praise myself for becoming able to detect such slight changes.

“Ichino-sama, your right hand is free though.”

Carol who was sitting on my right lightly said that and leaned towards me.

... Carol had an unusual longing expression.

Seeing that, I smiled and stroked Carol’s head. Carol’s purple hair was similarly glossy like Haru’s hair so it felt nice to touch too.

That’s right, what I wish for is not for a battle with a dragon or to fight tens of thousands of monsters, it is for peaceful moments like this.

When we return to Ferruit, this time, I will make sure to enjoy our time leisurely until the maintenance of the South Road is over.

While I was thinking that, a single child from the surrounding children looking at us from afar approached us, “So it’s true that male Humes have the urge to breed no matter where they are nya.”

And muttered that while staring at us. I suddenly felt embarrassed (it was my fault though) and lowered my hands when the white cat guards returned.

“I’ll lead you to the King nya ... nya? What’s wrong nya? Your face is red?”

I couldn’t answer that question at all. It felt like steam was coming off the top of my head.

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At the innermost room of the building.

Stella was in a long room next to a white wall.

“Stella, don’t run off so suddenly ...”

“Ah, everyone, sorry nya. I was distraught nya.”

Her expression was spiritless.

“What happened exactly?”

“The legendary Silver Vine tree everyone saw was something kings plant when they take the crown. And the tree grows as the king grows.”

Stella muttered as she stared at the white wall.

“If the tree’s remaining life is short, it also means that the King don’t have long to live too nya.”

” ... I see ... Since it’s Stella’s father, the King ... then why are you here? You should go meet the King ...”

“Eh? I’m looking at him now nya.”

Stella said.

Looking at him now?

But, I don’t see the Cat Sith King’s figure anywhere ... when enormous eyes and mouth suddenly appeared on the white wall.

Or rather, I thought it was a wall but it was a huge Cat Sith. A huge Cat Sith that had fit itself perfectly into the room.

” ... Oo, welcome guests, sorry for letting you see me like this. I am the Cat Sith current King, Zuberua.”

I was surprised.

That Cat Sith, as expected of a King, he wasn't an ordinary Cat Sith.

He apologized for his appearance. It's true that letting guests see him fitting perfectly inside a room was impolite but that wasn't the problem.

"You can pronounce 'na' normally?"

"Master, that's the part that surprises you?"

Haru tsukkomi-ed.

"Yup, that was the foremost surprising thing. ... I'm sorry for my rudeness, Your Majesty."

Carol's gaze told me that I said something really rude.

"It's okay. I only have little time left as the country's King. More importantly, my dear daughter was in your care. I'd like to thank you not as a King but as Stella's father. Thank you."

Zuberoa said that and closed his eyes.

"King, please don't say that you only have little time left."

"It's fine, Stella. Look at my fur. It was originally a splendid black but now it has become totally white. I am content to have lived such a long life until now. But, before I pass away, I wanted to drink the Silver Vine Wine Stella made."

" ... Father."

I was silent for a moment after seeing the interaction between the two Cat Siths but I made a decision.

"Your Majesty, please wait for a little while. Stella and I will now create the greatest Silver Vine Wine for Your Majesty."

(131) The trick to cultivating Silver Vine

Stella and I left the royal palace and headed to the outskirts of town.

Stella asked me what method I would be using to make the Silver Vine Wine but I didn't answer her. Or rather, I couldn't answer her.

Because there were other Cat Siths around us. It would be a little unwise to let anyone else hear it.

As I walked to the outskirts of town,

"Firstly, I need the Silver Vine seed from that legendary Silver Vine tree but is it possible to obtain it?"

"We should have it in the royal palace nya."

Shit, I should have asked that first, such a waste of effort to have to return.

Carol raised her hand just as I thought that.

"Ichino-sama, I have the seed if you are looking for the seed of that Silver Vine tree."

Carol said as she passed me a brown seed that was about the size of the marble inside a lemon soda bottle.

"This is the seed?"

The Silver Vine seed in my memory is a small seed that is able to fit inside the hole on a five-yen coin.

It was a little unexpected to see that it was so big.

"Yes, I appraised it so it's definitely correct."

Ah, that's right, Carol has the Plant Appraisal skill.

"Carol, why do you have a Silver Vine seed?"

Haru asked with curiosity but Carol only replied 'It is for Ichino-sama's sake. Carol must have realized. What I was about to do.

“Stella, please stick this anywhere on your body. Also, do not say a word to anyone about what you are about to see.”

“O ... okay nya.”

While looking confused at my words, Stella pasted the star seal I passed to her on her paw.

When she did that, the seal completely assimilated into the palm of her hand.

After confirming that, I chanted.

“My World!”

A dimensional rift appeared.

“Well then, let’s go.”

I took the hand of the considerably nervous Stella and led her to my world.

“Nya! Where is this place nya!”

Stella was probably shocked because we were suddenly in a different location.

Due to the sudden change, she dropped to all fours and her tail was standing upright as she looked vigilantly around her.

“Well, think of it as something like a subspace ... even so ...”

In addition to the log house, a few other buildings were already completed and there was even a small stable.

Inside the small stable, Fuyun was looking bored. I thought that it would be fine to let him roam freely since it’s a grassland after all though.

“S·te·lla·saaaaan! You came to see me!”

Her personality crumbled as Malina approached with a mad dash, hugged Stella and rubbed her cheeks together with hers.

“Welcome home, Master Ichinojo. Would you like to eat? Or enter the bath? Or would you prefer to supply MP?”

Where did she learn such lines?

” ... Thank you for the unique greeting, Pionia. I can supply MP to you but it

looks like you would have to use it immediately. I plan to grow Silver Vine in this world.”

“Silver Vine ... I see, so a fifth member has joined Master Ichinojo’s harem.”

“My relationship with Stella is not like that and I don’t have the intention of making a harem in the first place.”

Well, I have a promise with Carol to be in such a relationship with her in the future but I believe that it shouldn’t reach the stage of a harem.

Furthermore, Stella is absolutely not my type. If my strike zone was that wide, it won’t even be possible to give the batter an intentional walk. Well, I do admit that she is a cute creature. (TL: ‘Intentional walk’ is a baseball term. It is basically done by throwing pitches outside the strike zone to let the batter walk-over to the first base.) While looking at the black cat appearance of Stella that Malina was still continuing to rub her cheeks against, “What do you think about this seed? Do you think it will grow into a large tree?”

I showed Pionia the Silver Vine seed. She stared at the seed.

“Please first supply me with MP. I will try promoting its growth in a limited section.”

“Alright.”

I moved to Pionia’s back, slipped my hand in from below her shirt and placed my hand on her back.

While I was supplying MP to her, Haru went to tend to Fuyun, Carol went to the warehouse to check on the harvested crops, whereas Malina and Stella had disappeared without me noticing. I hope she’s safe ... I think I can still accept it if it’s until the stage of kissing but I sincerely hope that it doesn’t go any further than that.

... Pionia’s back was warm like a real person’s back and it was slightly soft.

“Master Ichinojo, the magical power waves becomes intense once you are excited so please calm down.”

“I ... I’m not excited!”

“Is that so?”

I reflexively lied but Pionia didn't act like she was particularly interested.

She really felt human at times like these too.

"Incidentally, just now you said that Stella is the fifth member of my harem so does that make the fourth member you?"

The other three, Haru, Carol and Malina are most likely definite.

I thought that perhaps she counted Malina and Marina separately but, "The fourth member is Fuyun-sama."

"Even before the fact that Fuyun is a horse, he is male in the first place! Also, you even address Fuyun politely huh?"

"Positive. I am a temporary life form, not a living creature. As such, living creatures are higher beings compared to myself."

That manner of saying it was somewhat lonely.

"... Temporary life form ... I really don't see it that way. I also felt that you were having fun teasing me just now."

"Negative. I do not derive fun from teasing the master I think most highly of. I only teased master so that master will relax."

"You ... ha ... so, do you still need MP? It's starting to feel painful."

"Affirmative. The MP for nurturing the Silver Vine has long been reached but it would help if I have a lot more."

I gently took my hands out of Pionia's clothes.

Then, I passed her the seed.

"Then, please do so."

"Understood. Do you wish to plant the seed here?"

"Ah, this place would be fine."

"Well then ..."

Pionia planted the Silver Vine seed and held a book in one hand.

The book shined faintly.

Then — the just planted seed grew two sprouts.

While I was thinking that, those sprouts progressively extended and became thin branches in the blink of an eye. The surrounding grass began to wither.

There was not enough nutrition.

Then, by the time I noticed, the tree reached about 5 meters in height —

“Are those ... the Silver Vine fruits? Seriously?”

Pear-like shining golden fruits grew plentifully on the tree.

Anyway, I’ve gotten my hands on Silver Vine fruits.

Then, the next step would be to make wine here but ... eh?

Now that I think about it, I wonder how much time is needed to make wine from Silver Vine?

(132) Let's make Silver Vine Wine

Nevertheless, it sure is a large tree. Even though there isn't a sun, the entire sky of this world shines faintly.

Because of that, a faint shadow formed below the tree.

I thought of immediately harvesting the Silver Vine but I decided to refrain from doing so.

"Nya nya! Where did this tree come from nya!?"

"Amazing right. This is Ichino-san's power."

Stella was shocked as she looked like she was disregarding the cheeks rubbing against hers while Malina answered while rubbing her cheeks against hers. Malina was being talkative, incomparable to her usual self.

"It is possible to hasten the growth rate of plants here."

"But the Legendary Silver Vine shouldn't be able to grow in normal places nya ..."

Really? Now that I think about it, the location where that Silver Vine tree was at was certainly special.

The ceiling was covered in crystals.

"Due to the ceiling at that place, not only does light cascade right down the middle the whole day while the sun is out, it also gathers moonlight so it can be said to be a place that nurtures plant growth nya."

"So it was a place like that ... it certainly was bright but ... nevertheless, I remember that there weren't many other plants."

In response to my question, Pionia bent down and said while looking at the withered grass.

"It should be because this tree snatches even the nutrients that are meant for the other plants."

Ah, I see. I looked below my feet.

The grass surrounding the tree had withered.

“A king grows by absorbing the energy of the commoners(grass) huh?”

“The King doesn’t do something like that nya!”

“Ah, sorry. I didn’t mean it that way. I meant that there are kings that are like that too.”

Stella was offended. Since to her, a king would refer to her father.”

“I unintentionally scolded you nya. Sorry nya.”

Stella bowed just as I was reflecting on my words.

“Well then, let’s quickly harvest the Silver Vine fruits.”

“No, it would probably be dangerous if Stella climbed to harvest. Since you might be affected while you are on the tree and fall down. Moreover, I wish to let Carol do the harvesting ... but ...”

I took out the spare mask I bought that resembled the mask Marina always wears and placed it on Malina.

“Ichino, it’s not like it will work just because it is a mask? The mask I received from Kannon has a unique power within it.”

“It’s alright, you came out anyway. Since this mask is also a special mask.”

Malina had turned into Marina. Incidentally, it wasn’t a special mask, it was really just an ordinary mask.

“Oops, sorry Stella.”

Marina released Stella.

Then, I took out a regular bow and quiver instead of her magic bow.

“Can you do feats like those by Robin Hood?”

“Umu, there are none that can’t be pierced by my heart’s eye. Easily done.”

Sounds really reliable. I have no idea what she sees with her heart’s eye but we all recognize Marina’s skill with the bow.

“So, Stella. How many should we get?”

“Hmm, three for now.”

“Umu, understood.”

Marina extracted a single arrow from the quiver.

Oya, I imagined that she would take three arrows out and shoot all three down with a grin but I guess she decided to do it steadily.

Well, it’s an important fruit so maybe she thought that she shouldn’t damage them.

Just as I thought that was the case — I noticed a flash of light inside Marina’s eyes.

At that time, she released the arrow.

(— Thread!?)

I did not miss out the knot tied onto the end of the arrow.

And then, immediately after the arrow was released, before I knew it, Marina pulled her hand backward.

Is Marina going to show me the first street performance of hers I saw again?

At a timing like this?

The arrow splendidly shot through the stem of a Silver Vine fruit.

The Silver Vine fruit fell down and it fit within my palm. Then, the arrow flew off into the distance — or so I thought but it made a large turn and flew back.

(I wonder what does she do to be able to manipulate the arrow with a thread.) Street Performer might really be a blessing after all?

That’s absolutely a superhuman-class skill.

The arrow returned in a straight line, shot through the stems of two Silver Vine fruits and they respectively fell in front of Stella and Marina.

At the end, the arrow shot into the quiver that had its lid left open and was collected snugly. The quiver did not fall over.

I would certainly find it strange if anyone doesn’t get amazed by that.

The quiver didn't fall over. To make it not fall over like that, the arrow must enter directly from above.

Moreover, there were other arrows inside the quiver too.

Despite all that, it fit snugly into the quiver.

"Marina, did your technique get better?"

"Umu, as expected, it's because of the bow equip skill. It's a comfortable feeling."

I see, it's the influence of that huh? Normally, dedicated skills can't be used without the equivalent equip skill but Marina was splendidly manipulating arrows while ignoring that fact before.

"Then, let's quickly start making this into wine ... eh?"

Eh? Normally I feel like Stella would be going 'Amazing nya, too incredible nya!' but she was awfully quiet. I thought so as that Stella was, "Umyaaaaan"

She was hugging the Silver Vine fruit and releasing erotic sounds while lying on her back.

Looks like she was defeated by the smell of the Silver Vine.

"Master, I'm back ... eh? What happened to Stella?"

"It seems like she has been affected by the Silver Vine. I'm stumped, I wanted to ask her the method to make Silver Vine Wine ... eh, wait. If Kannon originally made Silver Vine Wine too, Marina should know as well right?"

"Umu, I know. Kannon makes Silver Vine Wine by soaking Silver Vine in White Liquor."

... White Liquor is a kind of distilled spirit right? I don't have something like that.

"Master Ichinojo, if Silver Vine has sugar content, then it is possible to make wine with it alone. We can use wine yeast and nectar."

" ... Is it possible?"

"Affirmative. Leave it to me."

Thus, the Silver Vine Wine production began.

Incidentally, fermentation takes a couple of weeks but even fermentation was considered under plant growth so it was possible to ferment it in an instant using MP. To be exact, we will have to pause the growth during the addition of nectar to maintain the alcohol content so it can't actually be done in an instant and preparation was also required before fermentation so for now, it would likely take five hours to complete.

Rather, it's a big deal to be able to make wine in just five hours.

"So, Pionia. What are the detailed steps to take?"

"Starting with —"

Author's note:

Starting with —

The Silver Vine Wine would suddenly be complete next time.

Eh? Why?

Primarily because making Silver Vine Wine is a crime.

This novel might be picking a fight with Hello Work but,

It will not aid in the creation of moonshine.

By the way, Silver Vine Wine ... is that not tasty either.

(133) Epilogue

After finishing our preparations, mixing the Silver Vine and yeast to ferment and adding sufficient amounts of nectar, we allowed it to further ferment.

Halfway through the process, Stella woke up and came over to help.

“Stella, just now you got drunk just by holding onto Silver Vine so would you be all right helping with the making of Silver Vine Wine?”

“Getting drunk with Silver Vine and getting drunk with Silver Vine alcohol is different nya~. I’ll be fine as long as I don’t drink it nya~.”

Her manner of speech sounded like she was already tipsy but I guess she’ll be all right.

Since Stella took over the job of adding honey, I almost had nothing left to do.

After all, Pionia is the one fast forwarding the time.

“Ichino-san, why are you doing so much for my sake nya?”

Stella asked as she stirred the Silver Vine Wine.

“This world should be a considerably important place to Ichino-san after all nya.”

“Hn? Ah, you’re Malina’s friend after all and I have my own reasons too.”

“Reasons? For the King’s sake?”

“No, it’s for Stella’s sake who cherishes her father.”

I spoke. About our fathers. Well, I did omit some of the details.

For me, Haru and Carol, our fathers have already left this world and more so for Carol and I who feel responsible for our father’s death while Haru could not witness her father’s final moments.

I don’t really know much about Malina’s father but even if he is still alive, she has been reincarnated in this world so she would not be able to see him again.

“That’s why I don’t want Stella to have regrets.”

" ... So that's why nya ... thank you nya."

“You can give us your gratitude after everything is completed.”

After I said that,

“There’s no need to thank him. Since Master Ichinojo is not doing anything.”

Pionia said unnecessary words. I wonder whose MP are you using to speed up the growth of the plants? Wait, if I said that, I would be like a hopeless husband who says something like ‘Whose money do you think goes into feeding you!’”

Stella looked at us and mixed the barrel with a 'nyahaha' laugh.

Then, it was complete. Silver Vine Wine.

Along the way, Malina brought additional Silver Vine over so we brewed two barrels worth in the end.

“Shall I test it?”

Pionia scooped the alcohol with a homemade ladle, sniffed the aroma and then brought it to her mouth.

I heard from Marina that originally Silver Vine alcohol is manufactured by immersing unripe Silver Vine in white liquor without adding sugar so it actually tastes like medicine. However, this was made using ripened Silver Vine and there was even nectar added. I really want to give it a taste.

✖ ✖ ✖

“All right, let’s go. Pionia, I leave Malina in your care. Absolutely don’t let her go out.”

“Affirmative.”

For now, I tied Malina to a pillar.

The rope would unravel the moment we close the door.

“Stella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-
sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-
sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-

sanStella-sanStella-sanStella-san”

A sense of guilt rose as I saw Malina continuously call Stella’s name while crying but letting Malina leave here in this state would cause chaos befitting the second advent of the Devil.

Stella was also scared witless so she didn’t look at Malina’s face.

“Ah, once everything is over, I’ll explain the circumstances and try asking them to consider letting Malina enter the hidden village (with a leash) to visit.”

“You promised okay! Absolutely okay! If you lie to me I’ll catch a pufferfish from the sea and make Ichino-san eat it.”

The item people usually say to make the person drink is a thousand needles and definitely not the generic name pufferfish that signify the fugu fish. Also, it’s a fish that is frequently eaten in Okinawa so I really want to try eating it if she actually brought it to me. (TL: Thousand needles and Pufferfish are pronounced the same way in Japanese) Moreover, I said I would try asking but I didn’t say that I would definitely get permission.

In the worst case, maybe it will be fine if I bring her along inside a cage. Thus, I left Pionia and Malina behind as we returned to the village.

Haru and I were carrying the barrels.

Originally I intended to carry both but Haru stubbornly refused.

Incidentally, Carol also asked that she, as the slave, carry it but she couldn’t do so even when she tried to lift it so she gave up.

We headed to the King’s abode together with Stella but the situation seemed odd.

There weren’t any gate guards.

Just as I was thinking maybe something happened, ‘The King nya!’, there was a commotion as people rushed to enter the palace.

We looked at each other and nodded before running over at full speed.

“Your Majesty!”

When we entered the King’s room I was at just now, the Cat Siths in the

village were all already gathered there.

And, beside the King, there was a grey-furred Cat Sith who I presume to be a doctor pressing a stethoscope onto the King's body.

"Please be quiet nyi ... "

"Doctor, is His Majesty all right nya?"

"I speculate His Majesty has only two hours left nyi. If you have anything you want to say to His Majesty, you should say it now nyi."

"No way, only two hours left nya ..."

I lightly patted Stella's head who had collapsed in tears.

If there are only two hours left, you know what you should do now right?

I told her that.

Stella wiped her tears and nodded.

"Your majesty! I completed the Silver Vine Wine nya! I hope that your Majesty would drink it nya!"

It's usually not recommended to offer alcohol to a patient. However, there was nothing Stella could do now for the King if he only has about two hours left. Nobody stopped her as they all knew that.

" ... Stella ... you're here huh. I can no longer even open my eyes."

"Yes, Stella is here nya! I made Silver Vine alcohol nya!"

"I see, you made alcohol huh ... could you please feed it to me?"

"Yes, Your Majesty ... "

Stella opened the lid and scooped the Silver Vine Wine with a ladle.

"Your Majesty, please open your mouth."

Stella said and the King slowly opened his mouth.

Then, Stella gently poured the Silver Vine wine into the King's mouth It was then.

The earth shook — an earthquake? I thought but then the white wall ... no,

the King's body moved.

"The King —" "The King —" "The King —" "His Majesty —" "His Majesty's body —"

Everyone blurted out one after the other.

The room gradually got wider.

Actually no, the room's size didn't change. The King's body was shrinking.

"The King's body — is free!"

"The King's face that has been stuck at the door to his own room in the Royal Palace has detached!"

Somebody cried.

Wait, so the space behind the King was empty! I'm kind of worried how they managed his daily business but at least the mystery has been solved.

The King sat on his backside and licked his forefoot as he said.

"Delicious nyaaaaaaa!"

Ah, he said 'nya'.

"Stella, my daughter! Well done nya! Stella, how much more Silver Vine wine do you have?"

"Yes, your majesty. I have two barrels nya!"

"Then, we will have a Silver Vine Wine tasting festival for all citizens nya!"

He announced in an extremely loud voice unimaginable for someone who has an estimated of a couple of hours left to live.

From then on until the night turned to day, the citizens all had a party in the name of a Silver Vine tasting session.

It wasn't just alcohol, a lot of river fish dishes were served and we also tasted them.

In the middle of the night, the King called out to me.

"Hume ... thank you. I could enjoy an extremely tasty wine in the end."

“You say the end but you still seem very healthy though.”

“Umu, I also wish to have a longer life if there’s a wine like this. Leaving that aside, I smell a strange smell coming from you.”

“Strange smell? Is it that the smell of Silver Vine is stuck on me?”

“No ... do you know the Demon Lord Famiris·Raritei?”

“Only the name though ... ”

“I’ve met her only once. The smell I smelled that time and your smell ... the smell of your souls resemble each other.”

” ... Ah ... is that so?”

That’s probably because Haru’s lord was the Demon Lord right? But I couldn’t reveal that.

“Well, it doesn’t matter. I have a request to ask of you ... a final request as a King.”

After that, I listened to the King’s final request.

The next morning, the Cat Sith King, Suberoa took his last breath while surrounded by his citizens.

He was a King who watched over the Cat Siths for a long period of centuries. They all regretted how they did not realize that his death would come in an instant.

But, I thought that it was alright.

That’s because he had a peaceful expression as if he was sleeping and having a delightful dream.

(134) Declaration by Jofre and others of their intention to participate in battle

The sounds of shovels and pickaxes echoed in the valley.

The path that was blocked due to a mudslide. There, dozens of workers worked to remove the earth and rocks.

As the valley is originally a bedrock area, those rocks were all extremely large so the removal work faced difficulties as they could not remove them without breaking the rocks.

” ... Isn’t it completely wrong ... seriously, don’t mention gold, I don’t even see traces of a mine.”

At the beginning, Sutchino was eager for the prospects of finding gold but after the work progressed for one day, two days and three days, he was disgusted with the plain work. He also didn’t hear any exclamations from the surroundings from finding gold.

“Well, don’t say such things Sutchino. Isn’t it refreshing to work off a sweat like this?”

Using his wrist to wipe his forehead so that the sweat don’t flow into his eyes, Julio worked to shovel away earth and sand.

Doing so, nobody would be able to guess his former juvenile delinquent label. He looked like a good-natured youth no matter how you looked at him. Sutchino could only sigh at the transformation his childhood friend went through.

The Secret Society Massacre he sat as President in was already disbanded.

Sutchino did so because he wanted to monopolize the money they earned in the previous battle.

However, Julio was different. Julio had completely been charmed by a man. And he decided to follow that man.

“It’s something I learned from my teacher in the past but everything has what’s called a critical point, if you hit that spot with a single strike, you would be able to crush anything. Look at this!”

The person who said that was the red-haired man Julio admires, Jofre.

He held a pickaxe up and closed his eyes.

Tension was born between Julio and Jofre.

Then —

“This is my actual ability!”

He cried as he swung his pickaxe sideways towards a conspicuous rock.

In the end, due to the strange force applied to it, the handle of Jofre’s pickaxe broke and it became unusable.

“As expected of Jofre-aniki, breaking a pickaxe with a single strike is super powerful!”

Julio exclaimed excitedly. In his ears, he didn’t hear the ‘Hey there newbie, you broke another pickaxe!?’ ‘You won’t get off easily if you break another one okay!’ hoots from the surroundings.

“It’s nothing. To me, breaking a pickaxe is easier than snapping three arrows.”

He proudly boasted with an anecdote which Jofre couldn’t understand that was spread in this world by some Japanese person.

Then —

“It’s here! The exalted one is here!”

“Open the path! Don’t be a nuisance to the exalted one!”

“Offerings! Prepare the offerings!”

The workers opened the path, the ones that appeared were Elise and Milky — riding on top of Centaur.

“Centaur-sama, here are some harvested delicious wild grass. Please enjoy.”

After a worker said that, Centaur neighed once before beginning to eat the wild grass.

At that moment, Elise got off Centaur and rushed to Jofre.

“Jofreeeee! I brought your bento! I’ve been wanting to see you for so long.”

“Oo Eliseeee! I’ve been wanting to see you for so long too! Thank you for doing this for me.”

Exchanging word that was unimaginable given that they only parted three hours ago, Elise and Jofre shared a hot embrace. Somebody dutifully tsukkomi-ed with ‘That bento is everybody’s share so don’t eat it on your own!’

During that time, Centaur was continually eating the wild grass and just as he was about to take the final bite ... there was a rope bound to that bunch of wild grass and a worker threw it with all his might behind a huge boulder.

Then, Centaur chased after it — naturally, towards the direction of the huge boulder —

Centaur hit the boulder head-on. The boulder crumbled into pieces.

Among the jubilant cheers, Centaur ate the final bunch of wild grass as if nothing had happened.

“As expected of Centaur-sama.”

“Centaur-sama, we hope that you will aid us again.”

“We will prepare delicious wild grass.”

They lowered their heads to Centaur as the workers carried the fragmented rocks.

” ... As expected of Jofre-aniki’s companion, even your slow donkey is not to be trifled with.”

“Right? I felt that it was different from the other horses the moment I saw it.”

Jofre said proudly but Sutchino retorted bitterly in his heart ‘You felt that it was different from the other horses because it is a donkey’.

Then, while hiding from the workers carrying the rocks, he headed to the bushes beside the valley.

Just as he was about to skip out of work, he heard voices coming from the bushes.

He thought that they were people who were slacking off like him but when he listened carefully,

“It’s dreadful nya dreadful nya!”

He heard cute voices. Due to the unique way of speech, he immediately thought that they were Cat Siths. They may be a rare race but they can occasionally be seen even in Ferruit. They are a moderate race that fundamentally doesn’t like to fight.

“It’s dreadful nya, the King has passed away nya.”

“I heard nya! We should quickly return to the village nya. The fight to decide the new King will begin soon nya.”

“Before that, we need to gather five fighters nya! Let’s gather Adventurers from the Adventurer’s Guild nya! We’ll splurge on the rewards to gather them nya!”

“Nya, you are aiming for the King’s position nya?”

“If you’re a man then you must aim for the top once in your life nya.”

“So cool nya! I also want to try saying a line like that nya.”

“Then you give it a try too nya.”

“Is it okay nya? Then I’ll try. If you’re a man —”

“Oi!”

Interrupting the Cat Sith’s words, Sutchino appeared in front of the Cat Siths.

“Nya, human, when did you begin eavesdropping from nya?”

“Rather than that, tell me. What do you plan to do by gathering Adventurers? Will it turn lucrative?”

※ ※ ※

That night, Sutchino gathered Jofre, Elise, Julio and Milky and revealed it to them.

That soon, a fight to decide on a new King would begin.

He doesn’t know about the fight contents but by gathering five fighters and a

Cat Sith to enter the match, winning it would allow them to become the new King of the Cat Siths.

“Why don’t we participate too? We have just nice five people here. Julio and I may just be there to fill the numbers but you all should know Milky’s ability. Furthermore, there’s Jofre-san and Elise-san. There’s no blind spot. I will reply the Cat Sith tomorrow.”

“No no, Sutchino. We’re currently entrusted with the extremely important task of removing earth?”

Julio was the first to disagree. To him who usually didn’t work, the work this time round was tough but it was the trigger that made him discover the joys of labor. He was the exact opposite of Sutchino.

“No, isn’t it fine? It seems interesting and it can be where this Hero Jofre shows his skills.”

“Kyaa, Jofre is so cool! That’s right, I’ll make bento and bring it there.”

“That’s true, please make egg omelet for me. Elise’s egg omelet is the best after all.”

“As expected of Jofre-aniki! I will follow aniki and burn the image of that brave warrior into my eyes!”

Saying the complete opposite of what he was saying just now, Julio decided to follow Jofre.

“Ah, but instead of Sutchino and I, shouldn’t you invite Jo-aniki and Haru-anego instead?”

“No, we’ll go with the five here! I’m here after all, you can rely on me.”

Casting a sideways glance to Jofre laughing joyfully, Sutchino finally spoke to Milky.

Milky replied with a ‘Nn, sure.’ and announced that she would join without much enthusiasm.

Thus, the members were gathered but,

“By the way Julio. You call Jo-san and Haru-san aniki and anego but why is

that?”

Sutchino inadvertently asked Julio that.

Then, Julio answered with a ‘Why are you asking something so obvious?’ expression.

“He is Jofre-aniki’s companion. As Jofre-aniki’s younger brother, I naturally have to address them politely.”

” ... Nothing, if you are fine with it then it doesn’t matter ...”

Sutchino thought to himself.

(Is it possible that Julio that idiot has not realized that Jo-san and Haru-san are the Ichinojo and Haurvatat who captured his respected Uncle Narube?)

That’s not possible, thought Sutchino as he shook his head. But, if it was true, at the very least he should keep quiet about it until this battle ends.

(Since I will be the one who obtains the King’s treasure.)

(135) Miri's Adventure 7

Illuminated by the moonlight, a shadow moved southward.

And it was at a speed faster than a horse and the shadow was larger than a horse. As it would stand out on the highway, it pushed forward by weaving between the trees.

The trees looked like they were avoiding the girl seated on the large shadow.

No matter how little the swaying was, the girl was used to riding on transport developed by the excellent science and technology of the current day Japan so it was hard to say that she found it comfortable.

The speed was about 100km/h. It was an unusual speed given that they were weaving between trees.

As evidence, the person riding together with her behind her had an extremely poor complexion.

"I will kill you if you puke on my back ... if you want to puke, do it to the sides."

She — Miri, said as she glared at the person riding behind her — Norn.

However, Norn could not answer her. Since instead of words, a different mixed substance would spill out of her mouth if she opened her mouth.

After Fenrir, the white wolf they were riding on, heard that, it slowed down its speed. Since it would probably be intolerable if she puked on top of its back. However — its owner Miri didn't permit it.

"What, you slowed down without me specifying it?"

With a single sentence from Miri, Fenrir's speed increased even more than before — the time it would take for Norn to collapse became even shorter.

Then, after thirty minutes.

Looking behind, Norn's face was deathly pale. She was still barely breathing but that expression showed that she no longer even had the strength to vomit.

Looking at her, Miri let out a soft sigh,

(If she's come this far then I no longer need to worry about her puking.)

Having such thoughts, she made Fenrir continue running for another hour.

It was a miracle that Norn continued to hug Miri's small body even after her consciousness left her.

If her grip loosened by even a little, Norn's body would have been shaken off and she probably wouldn't be uninjured.

"We're here."

Miri said that and Norn was let off Fenrir. Fenrir was too much of a nuisance so she used Space-Time Magic and housed it in an alternate space.

The benefit of using Space-Time Magic to house items is that not only items but also living organisms can be housed within. However, the things stored inside the alternate space are all in the same place so,

"I'll kill you if you touch anything inside."

When she ordered it, 'Kun~' Fenrir flinched like a puppy and nodded. Then, she stored Fenrir in the alternate space.

Well then, Miri pondered on what to do with Norn.

It would be easier to store her inside the alternate space too but it wouldn't be a good idea to let her see the things inside.

Deciding to just leave her there and finish what she came here to investigate, she began walking away when,

"... U n."

She heard Norn groan. It seemed like she woke up.

"Norn, we're here."

"Eh? Miri-chan, we've arrived but ... this place doesn't look like Belasra?"

"I have something I'm interested about here. You can follow me but don't touch anything."

Miri said that before she headed towards the stratified cliff.

Then, she carefully examined those strata but she couldn't really tell due to the darkness.

Because of that, she made a net of Darkness thread and enveloped the entire cliff like a defensive net.

That's when Miri saw it.

"Here it is."

It was a nondescript wall at first glance.

But — when she tried to place her hand on it,

"Miri-chan, your hand — !"

"It's been sucked in. It's an illusion wall frequently used as a hidden door within labyrinths."

" ... Ah ... those."

Norn recalled what happened recently and sighed.

She was captured by bandits and the hideout of those bandits was behind an illusion wall. She was unconscious the entire time she was captured but after that, she found that there was an illusion wall there when she went back to see the place she was trapped at.

Her thoughts returned to that time.

"Then, this is a labyrinth?"

"Probably ... right."

Miri retrieved the Darkness net and stretched it inside.

Then, after confirming that there weren't any monsters inside, she entered.

"Ah. Miri-chan, please wait for me!"

Norn followed after her.

Then, Miri and Norn were rendered speechless.

It was because there was a conspicuous sword stuck on a pedestal and mysterious words written in a large font using white ink on the wall.

【Welcome to Centaur's Labyrinth!】

Centaur.

A mythical animal with a human's torso and horse's body. In this world, Otherworld, they apparently used to exist but when Miri ... or rather Miri's previous incarnation Kaguya, came to this world, she heard that they became extinct soon after, before she had the chance to encounter them.

(Does this labyrinth have some kind of relationship with those Centaurs?)

In the first place, she came here because it's one of the locations where her power was sealed at.

She stopped by to figure out who dispelled the seal and if he/she had any clue to the whereabouts of the other seals.

Because the seal was broken, she sensed the flow of the magical power from this location.

"The age of the words is comparatively new ... is there any relationship between my seal and the Centaurs?"

" ... Eh? These letters, I feel like I've seen them before though."

Miri and Norn both thought deeply about the words.

Incidentally, Norn was the person closest to the correct answer at the moment.

That's natural because those words Norn felt like she's seen them before were actually written by Jofre.

Jofre and Elise who discovered this labyrinth discussed whether to name the labyrinth Labyrinth Jofreli or Labyrinth Elise but ultimately, they decided to name it after the discoverer of the labyrinth, making it Centaur's Labyrinth. Hence, those words were written there.

"Miri-chan, what do you think this sword is for?"

"That sword is a trap. Well, there's no idiot who will get caught in such a classic ... trap."

" ... Ah, sorry, Miri-chan."

When Miri turned over to look, she saw Norn standing still in her pose of having pulled the sword out as well as the hole that it was pulled out from.

Miri and Norn fell downwards head first. But —

“I said it before, there’s no idiot who will fall for such a trap.”

A spider’s web nest made from Darkness thread extended from Miri’s body and stuck to the ceiling, preventing them from falling into the hole.

“Th ... thank you, Miri-chan.”

The person who triggered the trap, Norn, was dangling after being wound round-by-round by the Darkness thread.

“Well, the floor would return soon so wait for a little ... hn?”

Miri suddenly noticed something and extended her Darkness thread.

The Darkness thread extended endlessly ... and then, looking at the empty space ahead, she chuckled.

“So it’s like that ...”

Miri peeled off the Darkness thread that was stuck to the ceiling and fell towards the bottom of the darkness.

“Nooooooooooooo ...”

Leaving only Norn’s sorrowful scream, the Centaur’s Labyrinth returned to its original state.

The darkness led to a long slide.

The slide had many curves but other than some slight pain to the butt, there weren’t any other problems but Miri forgot.

Norn was continuously rocked on top of Fenrir just moments before so she was in a groggy state.

“I’m already ... at my ... limit ... uuu”

After that, it is better to keep off record what awaited the two of them for the sake of Norn’s honor.

(136) Miri's Adventure 8

It was an extremely long slide.

Along the way, there were fourteen crossroads and an instant-death trap awaited those who chose wrongly.

It was most likely a safety measure made by the creator.

It was a safety measure for when he accidentally falls in. The correct path was an easy left, right, left, right pattern but the final two choices changed patterns to right, right.

Naturally, the people who fell in probably didn't know the answer. If the person arrived at the correct path by sliding without thinking about anything, he would be the bearer of luck capable of obtaining the 1 in 16384 probability.

After her 'blunder', Norn had lost consciousness so she was tied to a Darkness thread and dragged along the correct path.

(But, it's strange. It feels like somebody has taken this path once.)

Also, making use of a labyrinth, it's certain that the Goddess Church is involved in some way.

(It's possible that something else was originally sealed instead of my power.)

While she was having such thoughts, Miri and Norn arrived at the destination.

"Such cheeky appearance as always. Acting so pretentious copying my twin-tail hairstyle."

Miri glared at the Goddess Statue with a sour expression.

One of the Goddesses who triggered Onii's transfer, Torerul's goddess statue was there.

"Uu ... I fweel shick ... eh? Torerul-sama?"

Norn woke up and bowed when she saw Torerul's goddess statue.

"Norn, leave the praying till later. Even if you pray now —"

“I got it.”

Without paying any attention to Miri’s words, a scourer dropped on top of Norn’s head.

“Eh? The scourer from conquering a labyrinth ... ?”

“The Kamenoko scourer from another miss ... seriously, if the Goddesses give out so many scourers, I hope the jackpot is a carriage.” (TL: Kamenoko is a brand)

Then, Miri glared at the Torerul statue.

She could see only a future where it drops a scourer no matter what timing she chose to pray.

“ ... I don’t need something like a scourer. I’ll be angry if you don’t give me something proper okay.”

Miri directed a pressurizing voice with killer intent towards the goddess statue.

“Mi, Miri-chan, what do you mean?”

“Torerul gives everyone a scourer because it’s troublesome otherwise.”

“No way, Torerul-sama wouldn’t ... ah, it might actually be possible for Torerul-sama.”

“Fuu, she finally gave me something decent.”

Miri said as she glared at the goddess statue. It could hardly be seen as a praying gesture but,

【Title: 「Labyrinth Conquerer II」 has ranked up to 「Labyrinth Conquerer III」】

【Clear reward skill: MP Economizing acquired】

A skill that saves on MP consumption.

With this, Miri would be able to utilize greater magic than she had been using until now.

“Well then, let’s return.”

“Okay. Miri-chan, let’s return ... eh? The door can’t be opened.”

Norn desperately pulled the door but it didn't budge.

"It's useless. Have you forgotten that the door to the goddess statue room can't be opened before the boss is defeated?"

"Ah, I see. Then we should quickly defeat the boss — eh? Miri-chan, we have to open this door if we want to defeat the boss ... eh? Then, don't we have to wait here until somebody else defeats the boss?"

"Of course not. Have you forgotten? My magic is — "

"Ah, that's right. As expected of Miri-chan!"

"Haaa ... Then, let's leave. 「Escape」!"

When they noticed it, Miri and Norn were in the middle of the town.

They suddenly appeared out of nowhere but luckily nobody saw them appear (it was also luck that the labyrinth was at the outskirts of town) so no particular problems arose.

"Ah, this is the town of Belasra. I've also been here once. If you like, I can guide you around?"

"Hmm ... I want to go to the gambling parlor. Ah, but before that, we have to raise some money at the Adventurers Guild."

"Money? Miri-chan, do you possess anything that can be turned into money?"

"Yeah. I have something that can definitely be sold at a high price."

Miri said and used Space-Time Magic, causing an item that can be sold at high price to appear.

※ ※ ※

"This, what stunning fur. How, how exactly did you acquire something like this milady?"

"During my journey, I found the corpse of a rare wolf. It was a fresh corpse so I stripped the fur on the spot."

"I, I see."

The man had a business smile but his countenance changed when he saw the

pure white fur Miri brought and began inspecting it.

As the inspection proceeded, the man's complexion quickly turned red.

"What happened to the flesh and fangs?"

"After I finished skinning it, a huge snake came and swallowed it."

" I see."

It was unsure if the man believed Miri's story or not but he had a subtle expression on his face as,

"I see, that's a shame. This wolf is a type of mythical beast called Fenrir, its fur is valuable but a single one of its fangs might even sell for 1 million. Here's your payment."

The man took out 1 gold coin and 100 silver coins.

"Gold coin ... Miri-chan is amazing."

Norn was in high spirits behind Miri but Miri's expression was sour.

"Are you looking down on me?"

"I'm not. The appraised value is 300 thousand sense but we can't prepare such a large sum. The remaining 280 thousand sense would be deposited into your guild card account and you can withdraw a limit of 20 thousand sense a day."

Saying that, the man handed her a proof of transfer.

"Well, 20 thousand sense should be more than enough. Now then, Miri, let's go to the gambling parlor." (TL: I think the author meant Norn there.)

"Er ... you're not ... going to the gambling parlor for the sake of playing leisurely right?"

"Naturally."

Miri said with an innocent smile for the first time in a long time. However, that innocent smile was a smile that brings misfortune to a lot of people.

(For the sake of having Onii live in this world peacefully, at the very least I need to multiply this 20 thousand sense by 10 thousand times.)

Miri snickered at the prospect of earning all that by gambling.

(137) Miri's Adventure 9

After entering the gambling parlor, Miri muttered while observing the surroundings.

Incidentally, there isn't a definitive age restriction for entering the gambling parlor as there are nobles who began playing at the gambling parlor for as long as they can remember so even though the people around them took notice of Miri, there naturally wasn't anyone who came to warn her.

"Ho, so this is Belasra's Gambling Parlor ... it sure has changed quite a bit."

When she was here previously, it was a place that only had card games. It definitely didn't have the roulette and slot machines.

Well, her previous visit was more than a hundred years ago when she came here incognito but she was quickly banished and forbidden from entering.

"Eh? Miri-chan, you've been here before? Even though you look lost?"

"Well ... er, exchanging coins with medals to play is the same. Then let's hurry up and —"

Miri went to the medal exchange counter and placed 1 gold coin — 10 thousand sense and 100 silver coins on the table.

"Please change all of this into medals."

"Understood."

The receptionist lady respectfully lowered her head, collected the coins and handed Miri 5 green medals and 1 red medal.

A green medal was 1000 sense, the red medal was 10000 sense so the remaining 5000 sense would be the tax.

"Ah, pl, please exchange this too."

Beside her, Norn took out 1 silver coin.

She was handed 5 white medals and 7 blue medals.

"Norn will be playing too?"

“Yu, yup, I’m feeling nervous though because it’s the first time I’ve come to a place like this.”

“I ... see. Then, Norn can play at the slot machines there. Also, here, read it while you play the slots!”

Miri passed Norn a sheet of paper and pointed her to a vacant slot machine on the first floor.

“Eh? But those slot machines need blue medals though? If I go there, my medals would quickly —”

“Stop complaining and get going! If you lose all your medals then just look around until I return!”

“Okay uuu!”

Norn headed towards the slot machines in tears after getting scolded by Miri.

Miri looked contemptuously at the sniffing Norn heading to the slots and continued observing the surroundings.

There were magical power detection tools placed everywhere. They were surely magic tools meant to capture cheating done using magic.

(Well, even if I don’t use magic, there’s no way I would lose if it’s the roulette.)

When she had that thought, Miri recalled the white wolf young girl who was together with her when she was the Demon Lord.

(I wonder if she’s doing well ... I believe that hero won’t renege on his promise.)

Miri had a really gentle smile for an instant.

That might have been the first real smile she showed since she came to this world. However, nobody noticed that smile.

Then, when Miri sat at the roulette table, her eyes turned sharp.

It was at the same time the ball was tossed.

She had already bet a large amount of medals but she further bet even more after the ball was tossed.

Miri looked at the ball and bet her medals on red 12.

The customers who saw that sized up Miri and her red medal.

That's because her age was still young, she didn't look like a young girl from a noble family but she had a red medal and she even bet it on a single point.

But many of those gazes were of pity.

Thinking about it normally, betting on a single point was unlikely to be fruitful.

The probability was $1/38$. In other words, she had a $37/38$ probability of losing a large sum of money.

That's why, the next instant — yes, when the ball dropped into its slot, everyone was shocked.

“Ah ... red 12.”

The gallery went crazy even before the dealer announced it.

3 black medals and 6 red medals were returned to Miri.

And she continued winning from then.

In the end, it was a huge loss.

Naturally, for the dealer.

10 bets 10 wins. Furthermore, it was all done via one point bets.

Miri's hand turned into 30 black medals and 51 red medals.

The dealer's face was also ghastly pale.

That's because no matter what technique he used, Miri would accurately bet on the number.

The only silver lining was that all the other customers couldn't follow her call because she would bet right before he stopped all bets.

There were some rounds when Miri was too late when calling her bets but even then, the ball would fall into the number Miri was about to bet on. In other words, her consecutive correct guesses were far beyond just 10 times.

And, naturally, the gambling parlor's administration wouldn't let it continue that way and that man called out to her.

“It seems like your luck is quite good.”

He looked about 50 years old by the skillful way he moved but he had the appearance of a 30 years old man.

“Sorry for the late introduction, I am this gambling parlor’s owner, Gorsa. Are you enjoying yourself?”

“Nice to meet you. I’m thankful that it’s such a great place. Since there’s no need to see through the cheats.”

“That’s harsh.”

Gorsa laughed as he scratched his forehead. In other words, Miri announced that if the gambling parlor didn’t cheat, she would win 100% of the time and even if they did cheat, she would be able to see through it. Moreover, she was also implying that she could win without cheating.

“If it’s okay with you, would you like to have a match with me?”

“That’s a pleasant offer. I’ve grown bored of betting with the chump change red medals. Naturally, we’ll be ... playing with no limits right?”

“Of course.”

” ... I see. Ah, my companion is playing at the slots so we can have our match after we meet up with her.”

Against Miri’s fearless smile, Gorsa nodded with a broad smile.

Then, the two of them went to the slots and saw that spectacle.

“Miri-chan, what should I do, the medals won’t stop!”

The medals were overflowing from the momentum of the slot machine spitting out all the medals it had taken until now.

“It looks like your companion had hit the jackpot.”

” ... Seriously, that kid is so noisy no matter where we go.”

Ultimately, Norn won a total of 14 black medal’s worth — 1.4 million sense.

Gorsa was a little bit shocked as he explained that it was quite little for a jackpot but it was without a doubt the largest win recorded for the slot

machines on the first floor.

(138) Miri's Adventure 10

Miri and Norn followed Gorsa up to the VIP area. Two female workers from the gambling parlor walked together with the three of them, holding the medals belonging to Miri and Norn. Miri walked without any worries but Norn kept checking her own medals countless times.

While gazing down slightly at the spotless golden handrail, they climbed to the second floor via a spiral staircase.

There, they entered the VIP area.

It was a place where only selected people could enter.

“Please have a drink.”

A lasciviously dressed lady offered Miri and Norn glasses filled with liquid.

Miri wordlessly extended her hand to the glass and drank the contents.

The red liquid content was a mixed fruit juice that had sourness and sweetness like orange juice. Norn was caught between accepting the drink or not when,

“The drink is free in the VIP area. Please feel free to take it. It doesn't have any alcohol in it.”

Gorsa said to Norn with a smile and she nervously took the grape juice.

And Miri surveyed the surroundings.

As expected of the VIP area, excluding the workers, almost all the people on the second floor belong to the upper class. Furthermore, they were not up and coming nobles or merchants but those that have countless generations of wealth and power behind them, in other words, people that were born with the promise of success.

When she was the Demon Lord, or rather, even a long time ago in Japan, Miri had seen such people before so she knew how they acted.

There are many customers who amuse themselves with gambling but these

people can be thought to truly enjoy gambling without being bothered by the wins or losses. Of course, they would be happy when they won and frustrated when they lost but it was all somebody else's problem. Rather than not feel any pain from losing money, it was more of a loss if they did not enjoy it when they lost, that was the kind of atmosphere they had. That might actually be the right way to gamble. Gambling is nothing more than just a game to enjoy, one shouldn't get absorbed in it. Even though she knew that, Miri still felt like those people no longer acted like humans.

Especially — those people who looked towards the first floor instead of enjoying gambling — they were most likely looking at the expressions of the customers as if a God overlooking mortals, especially those nobles, finding enjoyment in looking at the people fall into despair. Looking at those nobles, Miri leaked a small sigh.

Here, it was unclear who were the humans and who were the demons.

"I've understood the structure of the VIP area. So, what will we be betting on? Card game? Roulette? You won't say something like using slots right?"

"I will prepare it if you have any preferences but would competing with roulette be fine with you?"

"You will be the dealer?"

"Yes, I will be the dealer."

"I see ... then it's fine."

Gorsa smiled and led them to a roulette table at the back of the VIP area.

Then, Miri said.

"It's a match but the rule is only a single match. I will not participate in any more than that. I will bet all the medals I have earned. And, as my condition for accepting the match, I have just one condition. Lend me your ear."

Gorsa bent down to listen to Miri after she made her request. Gorsa's eyebrow twitched for an instant but apart from that, his poker face was flawless.

"Understood. I promise to guide you."

“One more thing. Just now I said that I will be betting everything but Norn’s medals don’t belong to me so she can do whatever she wants with them.”

“Yes, that’s not a problem too. Also, for this match, any kind of advice to or from the spectators are prohibited, okay?”

“Sure. But I don’t need any advice anyway.”

Then, Miri took all her medals and bet on two places.

Originally, betting can be done for a set time after the ball has been tossed and Miri would bet after the ball was tossed. What she didn’t know was that recently there was a white wolf girl who earned a large sum of money using the same betting style she utilized and Gorsa thought that it was the same situation again.

“Miss, what is the meaning of this?”

“You wanted to have a match right?”

The places Miri betted on were Black 28 and Black 2. Her bet would be multiplied by 36 times if she won.

Furthermore, she accurately split her 35 medals to 17 and 18 medals for the bets.

Seeing that, Gorsa understood Miri’s intention, or rather, her provocation.

That’s because there was a single number between Black 28 and Black 2.

Green 0.

In this roulette, apart from the numbers 1 to 36, there was also two house advantage numbers, Green 0 and Green 00.

If the ball falls into those green squares, no matter if you bet on red or black, odd numbers or even numbers, out bets or side bets, all bets would be invalid and all medals would be taken by the dealer. That was the mechanism in which the bookmaker would win in roulette.

Betting on red would not give a 50% chance of winning but instead about a 47.4% chance of winning.

However, Miri provoked him.

Try aiming for this Green 0 if you can do it. It meant that she saw through the fact that Gorsa had the technique to freely choose whichever square he wants to put the ball in.

However, if Gorsa wanted to win with certainty, he could just aim for the Green 00 directly opposite Green 0. If he did that, even if he missed by one or two squares, it would still be a definite loss for Miri. If he did that, Miri would have no chance of winning.

” ... Then, let the match begin.”

Gorsa sighed softly and tossed the ball after he spun the wheel.

Spectators formed around them before anyone noticed.

It was stirring up a commotion.

“Stop all bets — ”

Gorsa announced the deadline for betting.

Then, the ball continued its revolution, aiming for that green square.

Then —

“Is it a double zero!”

Somebody shouted. That’s right, the ball was not falling towards Green 0 but instead towards Green 00.

At that time — the sharp rotation done by Gorsa caused the ball to fly into the empty space above the wheel.

Then, the ball slowly fell down, as if it was fated to.

Into the space between the two black numbers, Green 0.

The ball fell into place and the match was decided.

The roulette stopped spinning and a loud cheer came from the spectators.

Gorsa announced with his teeth clenched.

” ... Green 0.”

That’s right, the ball fell into Green 0.

Miri smiled faintly when she saw that.

“I lost. There’s no way I could have won if you could pinpoint the ball to enter Green 0 ... though it felt like I lost just by a hair’s inch.”

Miri said as she patted Norn’s shoulder.

However, Norn replied like her heart wasn’t there.

That was natural.

With that announcement, Miri’s 35 black medals (3.5 million sense) was gone, and —

“The payout ... 504 black medals huh.”

Somebody calculated and muttered under his breath.

That’s right, Norn bet all her medals on Green 0 and earned 504 black medals.

Norn bet on Green 0 immediately after Gorsa threw the ball.

Miri said it. That Norn could use her medals whichever way she saw fit. In other words, she was telling her to bet on whatever she wanted to.

Gorsa definitely did not forget about Norn’s medals. On the contrary, since Norn was at the roulette table and she was always holding onto the medals cherishingly, he thought that there was a possibility of something happening.

Even so, when Gorsa was concentrating on the one-vs-one match with Miri, Miri had not come into contact with Norn at all.

As Norn obtained the medals by chance, he thought that Miri would send some kind of signal to Norn if she wanted to utilize those medals for the bet. That’s why he added the rule that prohibited giving advice. That was done to prevent Miri from inducing Norn to bet.

Gorsa probably didn’t expect it at all.

That Miri had already anticipated that all of this would happen and she already gave Norn the instructions before she even went to the slot machines.

Then, Miri said.

“So, will you be showing me the way? I lost the match so it’s time for you to

uphold your promise.”

(139) Miri's Adventure 11

Miri and Norn, together with Gorsa, descended down a different flight of stairs instead of the spiral staircase they climbed up with. The staircase did not lead to the first floor but seemed to continue downwards to the basement.

Gorsa's expression was not as grim as Norn had imagined.

504 black medals, 50.4 million sense. Despite it being an amount that could let Norn enjoy 30 to 50 lifetimes without working.

Norn implicitly asked Miri about it.

"That was just a show. Between the greatest gambler Gorsa and an ordinary person who earned a fortune with luck on the first floor ... right. Winning or losing didn't matter. To be honest, losing 50.4 million sense isn't that big a deal for this gambling parlor."

" ... Eh?"

"Norn, didn't you realize? There were people holding onto silver and gold medals on the second floor. I'm just guessing but the silver medal would be equivalent to 10 black medals and the gold medal would be equivalent to 100 black medals, do you understand now?"

Norn initially couldn't understand what she was explaining to her but she quickly realized and her face turned pale.

100 black medals, in other words, a regular in the VIP area can take out a medal equivalent to a large sum of 10 million sense.

Norn was shocked at the vast difference from her own world and she also understood the reason why the VIP area was separated from the ordinary area.

"The greatest gambler ... I was once called that but now I am just the owner of a humble gambling parlor. In fact, I still lost to you like this."

"Eh? I said it just now. It's my loss. Well, I would be taking 90% of Norn's medal though."

"Eh?"

Norn raised a voice to protest ... and curled herself up after taking the glare from Miri.

Norn never thought from the start that she would take everything but she at least thought that it would be an equal split or at the very least a 30% cut.

Then, the place the two of them reached was —

” ... What’s this place?”

A dim wide room. Illuminated in the center was a stage that somewhat resembled the atmosphere that can be felt from the guild arena.

“It’s an underground arena. Humans versus monsters or occasionally humans are made to fight against each other and money is bet on the winner. Well, it’s a tasteless show.”

” ... No, no way. There’s no way such an illegal act can be allowed —”

“Have you forgotten? This is a state-owned gambling parlor.”

In other words, this show was endorsed by the country.

“Either way, you can’t blame it on Gorsa. Since this place has been running since before Norn or I, no, before Gorsa was even born. People who became slaves because they could not repay the debt they owe to the gambling parlor. Adventures who wanted to make a fortune overnight. Many people have fought here.”

” ... Not a single person among the guests at the VIP area knows about this place though.”

Gorsa mumbled in a troubled tone.

“You don’t have to worry about it. The means I came to know about this place was special after all. It’s not because there are rumors spreading about outside.”

“Could you tell me the way you got to —”

“It’s a secret.”

“Understood.”

Norn was looking at the two of them respectfully bow to each other when

cheers came from the hall.

When they turned to look at the arena, there was a man holding up a sword — although, he was really just holding onto it, looking like he was inexperienced in fighting, as he was surrounded by four goblins. Just now it was just nice in her blind spot so Norn didn't notice it from her position.

“So this is a bet to see how many goblins he will defeat huh. 2.1 odds for zero goblins defeated, 2.4 odds for 1 goblin ... sigh, in other words, in most cases they all die before they defeat all the goblins.”

“Die ... oh my god.”

“Norn, you can see that the guy is wearing a black slave collar right? That's a collar meant for criminal slaves that are sentenced to death. There's no need to sympathize with him.”

“Yeah. He stole from the mansion of a noble from the Kingdom and was sentenced to death after the trial. And I picked him up. If he wins 10 times consecutively, he will be granted a pardon. This is the second round but he injured his foot in the first round so this would probably be his end.”

“Incidentally, has there been anybody who escaped the death penalty by surviving through 10 battles?”

Gorsa didn't answer Miri's question. That was the answer.

A death penalty would stay a death penalty. The only ray of hope they have is to fight until the end with the hope that they could be saved. And the instant when that hope turns into despair — they would turn into food.

Currently, a goblin's club directly stuck that man's back. He killed a goblin while looking like he was about to collapse but it looked like it was the end.

He was showered with blows from the remaining three goblins and blood scattered across the stage. Then, the goblins ripped off the arms, legs, and head and began devouring him. Goblins do not cannibalize. That's because Goblin flesh is not tasty. And, having no concept of burying their dead, they did not spare a glance at their dead companion who fought with him just now as they continued eating the man until only bones remained when a fully equipped Adventurer-like man came and chased the goblins into their cage. They directed

their blood thirst at the Adventurer for an instant but they were chased into the cage due to the smell of the monster repellent applied on the man. They weren't allowed to finish consuming the man not because they wanted to at least allow him a burial. It's probably because they have to always keep the goblins in a starving state. They were constantly starved, bordering the line between life and death. All for the sake of fighting with humans.

" ... It's terrible."

Norn muttered.

Miri felt that Norn had decent sensitivity.

At least she was better than those noble men who looked at humans getting killed with a smile. And those noble women who also looked at the fight with a smile even though their faces were turned slightly away.

They don't look at others as human. Nobles are born as nobles. Royalty is born as royalty. Because they were brought up like that, they truly believe that they live a different life compare to other humans.

Workers retrieved the man's corpse while a man in tuxedo used 「Clean」 from the Lifestyle Magic to wash the stage. There were no traces of blood left.

"... Miri-chan, why are we here?"

"Because I'm here to look for a certain someone ... Seeing as the person is not in the stands, I guess the person will appear as a participant after all. Gorsa-san, who is versus who in the next match?"

"They're coming out now."

Gorsa pointed at the arena.

One of the participants had a hood on so the face could not be seen. But from the thinness of the body, it was likely to be a woman.

And the other was a topless giant man. His weapon was an axe and there was a black slave collar around his neck. A criminal slave sentenced to death.

" Ah."

Norn made a sound when she saw that man.

That face and that equally dreadful green hair, her feet trembled slightly.

“Norn, it’s somebody you recognize?”

She nodded slightly to Miri’s question.

Thinking that Norn would not answer for a while, Gorsa explained.

“That man was a thief. His profession is Bandit. He was captured by Adventurers and was sentenced to death. The tendon in his feet was cut and he could not walk but he was treated by Practitioners and is now fighting here. It is now his eighth fight and he would get his pardon if he wins another two times.”

“And he is also the leader of the thief band that kidnapped me in the past.”

” ... Then, he’s the bandit that was defeated by Onii?”

Miri waited for Norn’s reply and once again looked at the male bandit.

She imagined her brother fighting that bandit — and in that imagination, there was the beaten up appearance of her brother.

Miri was always with Ichinojo so she grasped his strength. He would brandish his sense of justice and jump on those boorish men but he has had the tables turned on him before. Although Miri then showed those boorish men what true hell was.

” ... Well, it doesn’t matter. My business is with that girl.”

The female facing that male bandit took off her hood and revealed her face.

A young lady with white skin and brown hair.

“1.2 odds for the girl, 8 odds for the man ... I guess it’s the end for him here.”

Miri looked at the odds table and muttered.

“Yeah, that girl’s skill is genuine. Although, the bettings have already been closed.”

” ... I see.”

If the bettings weren’t closed yet, Miri would probably have bet all her fortune on that lady.

The difference in ability between the two was that clear.

“Is she that strong?”

Norn asked after looking at the name written on the odds table.

“That lady called Kannon.”

The answer to her question was announced together with the signal to start the fight.

Magic Swordswoman Kannon.

What Miri didn't know was that Ichino's ability was also obviously above that ridiculous ability of Kannon's.

(140) Miri's Adventure 12

As if it was a pro-wrestling match, the sound of a bell signalled the start of the match.

The large man wielding the axe ran,

“「Helmet Split」!”

And swung the axe down while crying out the name of the skill. Kannon held her sword horizontally. She directly stopped the axe blow.

Almost everyone in the venue thought that it was reckless to stop the weight of the axe using a thin sword. That's why, the next instant, a lot of people doubted their own eyes.

The man couldn't move his axe. Due to Kannon's sword.

Sweat glistened on the man's forehead but Kannon's expression showed that she still had a lot of leeway.

The man put in even more strength. His face was red as a lobster and his arms were trembling like they were having spasms.

Even so, Kannon's raised sword showed not even the slightest of movements.

“Amazing.”

Miri murmured.

“It's truly amazing. To stop that axe with that thin body.”

“That's not what I meant. I was referring to that sword — that's a magic sword.”

“Magic swords are ... swords with special effects. Miri-chan, do you know what kind of sword that is?”

“Anti-gravity — or not to that extent but it seems to be a sword that snatches the weight of anything that crosses it. Although it probably has a time-limit.”

“Steal ... weight? You can tell something like that?”

Norn was half in doubt thinking that it is mysterious how Miri could know something like that.

However, the answer was simple. When Miri was the Demon Lord, she met a swordsmith who created a similar sword. Although, if compared to the sword that was crafted by that swordsmith, the sword Kannon was currently using would be inferior.

Miri ignored Norn's question and asked Gorsa who was standing beside her.

"Gorsa. What's the reason for that Kannon girl to be fighting?"

"That relates to our client so I am not able to reveal it to you."

"I see ... then I'll just ask her directly. Since it's about time the match ends anyway."

It happened immediately after Miri said that.

After Kannon pushed the axe away, her sword slashed the man's right leg. Even so, it was not a fatal wound as it was just a small cut. But that was enough. Having a portion of his weight stolen, just the man's regular movement caused him to lose balance and the result was him exposing his unprotected back to Kannon.

To the man, his current condition was like walking in a place with low gravity like the moon. An untrained person would not be able to walk.

Then, ignoring the man's unprotected back, she looked at the man's calves. At the scar of the wound that was healed — she sliced it again.

"That's enough! The winner is Kannon!"

A referee for the match standing above the stage cried out, signaling the end of the match.

Because of that match, the man's challenge to ten consecutive wins returned to zero.

Looking at the man get carried off on a stretcher, Miri slowly walked forward, climbed over the low wall of the arena and jumped into the side with the stage.

"What's wrong, young lady? This is not a place for children to visit."

“Fight me! If you win, I will give you these 504 black medals.”

“That’s taking it too far for a joke.”

“I’m not joking. I won them all just now from roulette.”

Norn protested with ‘Miri-chan, didn’t you say a portion of it belonged to me!’ but Miri ignored her.

More importantly, that made Kannon believe that the medals were real.

Even so, Kannon was reluctant to have the match.

“Even if the money isn’t an issue, this is an arena you know? You, young lady, don’t look like you can fight.”

“Become my slave if you lose.”

“Young lady, are you listening to me?”

“I’m asking you if you will accept or reject the match. Be at ease, I will take it easy on you after all.”

Kannon glared at her as Miri gave a fearless smile.

However, those eyes weren’t serious.

“Fine, I’ll accept the match.”

A huge commotion began from the gallery around the arena. A commotion indicating that a wonderful sideshow has begun.

The bets also started. Then, the odds were shown.

【Kannon: 1.5 odds, Miryuu: 2.1 odds】

The bets were not that far apart. She didn’t know how they researched her name but it displayed her real name in this world.

The ones who bet on Miri would be those idiots who bet on dark horses. Or people who knew of Miri’s actual ability.

That was Norn.

She bet all her medals on Miri.

“What are you going to do? It looks like your friend bet all her medals on you

winning but ... the talk just now would still stand if I won. You two would become debt slaves. Is that alright with you?"

"There's no way I'll lose. Fufu, it's the first time I want to compliment Norn."

Then, the bell signifying the start of the match rang.

At the same time, Miri took action.

"「Dark Mist」!"

A mist of darkness blocked the space above the arena, obstructing the view of the spectators.

Since what she was going to show here would be too shocking for the spectators.

"Come out!"

From the space created by Miri, a huge forefoot covered in white fur appeared and struck Kannon. It was Fenrir's forefoot.

Even though she shouldn't be able to see within the darkness, Kannon used the same gravity-controlling sword to receive the attack. The power of an attack from the side couldn't be reduced as much as an attack from above. Nevertheless, she stopped that tremendous strike.

As a result, Miri cried out in frustration.

Not because she stopped the strike but because Fenrir didn't obey her command.

"I'll say it once more. Come out!"

When she said that, Fenrir reluctantly exited.

"Kuuun."

Fenrir cried like it really hated it. It couldn't be helped. That's because —

"You made something outrageous come out ... er, why ... is its head bald?"

Fenrir's head was bald.

"It's due to the stressful society. It's not out of the ordinary for one or two beings to turn bald."

“It looks a little too big to be caused by stress though ... don’t tell me you shaved that child’s fur to sell to the guild?”

“I sold it for a good price.”

” ... You demon.”

“Demon? That would be you right?”

When she muttered that, shadows grew from the darkness.

“Disciple of the Dark Swordsmith Gilbain, Demon Kannon.”

She announced. That voice was swallowed by the dark mist above them, preventing it from reaching the ears of anybody in the spectator seats. If sounds could get through, the sounds the two of them would hear now would be the booing from the spectators. After all, they could not see the fight.

And, Kannon raised her wariness against Miri who knew about her.

” ... How, you not only know about me, you even know about my master, can you tell me how?”

“Let’s see, sure I can tell you.”

Miri muttered that it was just a trifling conversation to herself and said to Kannon.

“After I win.”

After that announcement, dark tentacles extended out from Miri’s back.

Kannon laughed.

“Why would you think Darkness Magic would work against a demon like me —”

Kannon remarked leisurely but one of those tentacles struck out at her face.

It was her instincts that made her avoid it. Due to Kannon’s, the demon race’s unique skill 「Darkness Absorption」, Darkness Magic of power to a certain extent would be absorbed. So Darkness attacks was something that she would receive head on instead of evading but —

“Eh.”

It left a wound on Kannon's cheek. She traced that wound with a finger and verifying the blood on her fingertip, she once again felt terror.

She recognized Miri as a monster able to control Fenrir and manipulate Darkness of the highest purity even greater than that of the demon race.

Then, she realized.

That the opponent she was fighting now was an opponent that she shouldn't have fought against at all cost.

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"Are you sure you should have done that? Betting everything. You would get scolded."

In a corner of the hall, Gorsa who was trying to hide asked Norn.

"It's all right. Because I can't imagine Miri-chan losing at all. Rather than that, doesn't Gorsa-san need to go to the venue?"

"... Eh, I'm tired. Of dealing with nobles."

Gorsa said with a bitter smile.

The customers at the venue were kicking up a fuss. Since the match area and fight was obstructed by darkness, the workers were pressed to find a countermeasure.

To somehow dispel the darkness, there was an employee that picked up a stick to sweep the darkness away but that stick couldn't even enter the darkness in the first place.

"Who is she? That Miryuu-sama. When I contacted the Adventurer's Guild, I was told that she was a Darkness Magician. A Darkness Magician at that age alone was already shocking but —"

"... When did you contact them?"

"Dark Mist is originally magic that only produces a thin veil of mist — it shouldn't have the effect of completely blocking vision."

"Well, it's Miri-chan after all."

Norn muttered with a wry grin and scratched her cheek.

(Onii-san also, in the beginning, he was struggling against kobolds but before I knew it, he was stronger than mid-level Adventurers, I was shocked by that growth capacity but I'm convinced if he is Miri-chan's brother.)

There's this younger sister because of that brother, or rather, there's that brother because of this younger sister.

At the same time Norn drew a conclusion in her mind, darkness mist overflowed from the venue.

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As Gorsa and Norn were having their conversation, Miri and Kannon's fight was reaching its climax.

Miri was creating Darkness Bullets from her shadow while Kannon was flying using the wings that grew from her back in all directions to evade them.

"Miryuu-san right ... your strength is certainly a threat but I've understood your weakness."

Kannon no longer called Miri a young lady nor did she look down on her. That's because to Kannon, Miri was a terrifying opponent.

That's why, although it was cowardly, what Kannon was aiming for was to deplete Miri's energy.

Kannon has a skill to see the opponent's MP. Using that skill, she figured out Miri's weakness.

Since that was the case, she invested all her attention into avoiding the attacks.

That was Kannon's strategy.

Even though the light was being obstructed, as a demon born in darkness, there was no difference at all.

"Of course, I did not forget about you."

Avoiding the large claw that silently came slashing down from behind her, she put her back against the Dark Mist created by Miri.

That was Kannon's greatest error.

“Eh?”

A pitch black arm appeared from the Dark Mist and grabbed Kannon’s body.

“No way ... for the Dark Mist to form substance and move — I only know a single person who can do something like that — ”

Kannon’s mouth was blocked by the Dark Mist hand.

Then — a large Darkness Ball that can be said to be the image of insanity formed on her palm.

(No way, she shouldn’t have any more MP remaining to use such a magic.)

According to Kannon’s MP Grasp skill, Miri’s remaining MP was 2. She should be just barely standing and shouldn’t be able to use any more magic.

Despite that —

“I won’t deny that I don’t have much MP remaining. Even so —”

And, Miri released her skill.

【Status Forgery】

The ability to forge the status that can be seen by others.

After dispelling that, Miri’s MP was currently 110.

Then, the number increased to 121.

“Fortunately, I have MP recovery means.”

The Darkness Ball released from Miri’s hands mercilessly robbed Kannon’s consciousness.

Then, the Darkness Mist dispersed — and there wasn’t anybody standing.

Apart from Gorsa and Norn as well as Miri.

The Darkness Mist completely robbed all the spectators’ consciousness.

For the sake of using the MP absorption skill to recover MP.

The collapsed referee who couldn’t move — muttered softly.

” ... Winner ... Miryuu.”

It was an announcement that showed his professionalism but unfortunately,

it didn't reach any of the fainted spectators and could only be heard by Miri.

" ... Well then, shall I start cleaning up."

Gorsa muttered with a smile while holding his head.

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After the fight. The commotion was a lot less than expected. When the special VIP guests, judges and workers who had their consciousness completely robbed by Miri's Darkness Mist regained consciousness, they all had extremely calm looks.

Getting swallowed by the Darkness Mist planted fear in everyone. But, when the darkness cleared, all the people saw hope.

They were like children who saw hope for the future, but it doesn't mean that they had actually grown as humans.

Since Miri and Kannon's fight was the last match of the day, they left the arena and headed to the gambling parlor.

I feel like I can win big today! They held hopes like that as they entered the gambling parlor.

If you had to name the commotion that occurred due to their fight, it would be that many people who suffered great losses appeared after that. Although, that was something unrelated to Miri.

"... Miri ... chan ... what should I do?"

Norn asked Miri while crying.

She was holding onto 4 red medals, 8 black medals, 5 silver medals and 10 gold medals.

Medals worth a total of 15,840,000 sense. That was inside her palm.

An amount equal to 1 billion yen. With such an amount of medals, their future was promising.

"Ah, of course, I won them thanks to Miri-chan so I know that not all the winnings will go to me but even so —"

"I'm fine with only 5 gold medals. Norn can use the remaining ones."

"Un ... eh? You're fine with just that!!?"

Norn's expression showed that she would be troubled.

"Incidentally, Gorsa. Does this gambling parlor have skill books?"

"Yes, although we only have a few."

"I wish to exchange them using medals."

Norn asked when Miri said that.

"What are skill books?"

"Skill books are items that let you acquire the skill after reading it. It can very rarely be acquired after clearing an advanced labyrinth. It's not surprising that you don't know about it as they are usually not circulated in the market. Half of the reason why I came here was for that."

Money was important in this world. However, Miri also knew that it wasn't everything.

To Miri, there are mountains of ways to earn money but becoming stronger was more important.

"Moreover, most of the skill books are offered to the Pope so there is really very few remaining."

"It's fine, let me see them. Ah, the person there, let Kannon know after her treatment is over."

After requesting that of the gambling parlor worker, Miri returned to the second floor VIP area together with Gorsa.

The VIP area item exchange was in a spacious room. Rare items that can't be seen in the first-floor item exchange were displayed there.

For example, Rare Medals that can make monsters stronger if they eat it and swords that look like magic swords. Naturally, there were also many precious metals.

Among the items were skill books.

There were many of them ranging from 1 silver medal for a book even until 200 gold medals for a book.

"So this is a skill book ... I thought it was going to be a book true to its name

but it's a gem huh?"

Norn looked at the skill books with interest.

The skill books were roughly about the color of marble.

Incidentally, people who possess the unique skill 「Skill Book Appraisal」 would be able to appraise the contents of the skill book.

"The ones for magic skills are expensive as expected."

"There sure are various kinds of magic skills. What is this Star Magic?"

"Star Magic is magic that can only be used when there is a clear night sky. At high levels, one would be able to utilize large-scale magic but you would be countered by just somebody using Cloud Magic."

" ... I've not even heard of Cloud Magic too."

Norn had no talent in magic so she gave up there.

"Ah ... I want this."

What Norn saw was the skill book for 「Thousand Spear」, exchangeable for 5 gold medals.

" ... The name sounds like 'Thousand Needles'. If I'm not wrong, it's a skill that allows one to thrust the spear consecutively, making it seem like there are a thousand spears ... right?"

"Yes, it is a spear skill that can be bestowed by the Goddess-samas. It's very rarely obtainable so I don't want to leave it to fate ... I would like that if I purchase any skill books here."

"Are you sure? Five gold medals is 50 million sense you know? I believe it's a sum that Norn can't earn even if you work hard for your whole life."

" ... Yes, I feel that I must obtain this with this money. I would probably find it unsettling to use this money that I obtained without working for it."

Norn laughed as if laughing at herself.

"Really? Well, it doesn't matter. I will take this."

The one Miri took was 「Stone Head」.

It was a skill that physically makes the head harder, increasing the power of head butts and the defensive power of the head. That also cost 5 gold coins.

“That’s a surprising choice of skill for Miri-chan. But, since Miri-chan possesses absolute power in magic, adding physical defense would make you unbeatable.”

“Eh, what are you talking about, there’s no way I’ll use defensive skills. I decided to have Onii use this.”

“Ah ... I see. Miri-chan really likes her brother.”

“It’s not because of feelings of like or such. I’ll just be troubled if Onii dies.”

Miri said that with an innocent smile.

Then — the remaining medals were exchanged to craft a spear for Norn using strong iron and the remaining medals after that were exchanged into precious metals to fund the journey.

When the medal exchange was complete, they received notice that Kannon’s treatment was over.

“Norn you can have your meal or something and wait here. I have something to say face to face with Kannon.”

Miri said that and went to the sickbay.

There, Kannon who she just unfolded a battle with was wearing a white shirt and sitting on the bed.

“I wish to speak to her alone so leave the room.”

The lady who guided Miri here bowed and left after she said that.

Then, Miri spoke to her.

“You promised. Become my slave.”

” ... Haa ... slave huh. I’ll keep my promise. I’ll become your slave. But, to bind me with something like the slave collar —”

“You said it.”

Miri grinned.

— Skill, 「Authority of the Demon Lord」, activate!

Against a demon who announced that she will be her subordinate, it was a skill that could impose absolute obedience.

And, Demon Lords can obtain experience points by increasing the demon subordinates under them. And they will obtain a portion of the experience points acquired when their subordinates defeat monsters.

Miri caused a commotion in the gambling parlor because she wanted a convenient subordinate like Kannon and she felt the magical power of a demon from below the gambling parlor.

Although Miri didn't expect that it would be a demon she knew.

【Miryuu leveled up】

【Demon Lord skill: 「Demon Summoning」 acquired】

Her level increased because Kannon became her subordinate.

Muttering 'status open', she verified her own status.

Name:	Miryuu	Race:	Hume
Job:	Demon Lord Lv15 (14↑)		
HP:	921/921 (729↑)	MP:	101/101 (35↑)
Phy Atk:	303 (208↑)	Phy Def:	503 (421↑)
Mag Atk:	1220 (915↑)	Mag Def:	892 (703↑)
Speed:	520 (416↑)	Luck:	30

【Equipment】

Sailor Uniform Athletic Shoes

【Skills】

「Space Magic III」 「Darkness Magic X」 「Compounding IV」 「MP Absorption」
「Status Forgery」 「Authority of the Demon Lord」 「Demon Summoning」

【Acquired Titles】

「Labyrinth Conqueror III」

【Possible Job Changes】

Commoner Lv1 Herbalist Lv1

【Blessings】

TL: Demon Lord stats are absurdly OP.

As usual, only her MP growth rate was terrible. Her Magic Attack had reached four digits but Miri still thought that it was extremely weak compared to when she was still Famiris.

“By the way, Kannon. Why were you fighting in that gambling parlor even though you are a demon?”

“That’s because ...”

“Answer me honestly.”

“ ... It’s a part-time job to acquire the 「Magical Power Detection」 skill book that is here ... eh? Why did I ...”

“Magical Power Detection ... hey ... it’s certainly a power capable of investigating the owner of the magical power residue left behind. What do you plan to use it for?”

“I heard that the Demon Lord-sama had resurrected and I attempted to gather information on Demon Lord-sama from the magic transfer circle in Florence.”

So that’s the reason. Miri was convinced.

The magic transfer circle in Florence was created to escape the labyrinth when Miri was still the Demon Lord and had challenged herself to search through the labyrinths.

It was plausible that she could obtain information on the Demon Lord using that.

However, it would be information on Famiris·Raritei before she died.

“ ... Er, why is it that I somehow can’t go against your words?”

“You said that you would become my slave right. I’m just making you stay true to your words.”

“No way ... that skill, as far as I know — impossible.”

With a face pale from fear, Kannon lost her words.

And Miri gave an evil smile.

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After that, Miri and Norn, together with Kannon, rode on top of the bald Fenrir heading towards the south.

“Wait for me Onii. As of now, I have secured one servant for you after all.”

Naturally, she would command Kannon to do so when Kannon met Onii.

“Even if it’s a subordinate or a slave, I will kill them if they touch Onii.”

That’s right, regardless of who it would be.